



Your Tunbridge Wells

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No 181

£750,000 'wasted' as developers split with council

By Chrissie Daniels
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A CONTROVERSIAL regeneration company set up to transform publicly-owned buildings across the borough has been dissolved, with one politician branding it a collosal waste of taxpayers' money.

David Neve, leader of the Liberal Democrats on the town's borough council, estimates the authority spent £750,000 on the project over the past four years and that nothing has been gained.

The Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company was a joint 50/50 partnership between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and developer John Laing. Set up in December 2008, it was designed to evaluate 38 publicly-owned sites and examine opportunities to push ahead with civic, retail, commercial, community or residential property opportunities by "redeveloping or regeneration [of] assets".

However, it found itself at the centre of huge controversy over plans to redevelop the civic complex and Town Hall.

The plans were so contentious, they were eventually put on ice after the massive public backlash.

The council will pay an undisclosed sum to the developer.

■ **Read the full story, reaction from the council and criticism from political opponents inside.**



JUNGLE TO PANTILES: Rosemary Shrager is to open a new cookery school on the Pantiles

FOOD

TV CHEF'S TOP CLASS

TV CHEF Rosemary Shrager will swap the jungle for the rather more tranquil setting of the Pantiles after it was confirmed the I'm A Celebrity... contestant is to open a new cookery school in the arcade.

The Ladette to Lady star and This Morning regular will open up the school in The Corn Exchange on the Lower Pantiles.

The scheme was created in collaboration with the Marquess of Abergavenny – who bought the Lower Pantiles earlier this year and is keen to revive its fortunes.

Speaking before jetting off to Australia to star in the ITV1 reality show, she said: "I absolutely love Tunbridge Wells. There's so much potential here, and because the Pantiles is already a destination it's the ideal venue and all the more reason for people to come for a cookery course and stay a few days more."

TRAFFIC

Six more months (at least) of Pembury Road traffic chaos

NO changes are to be made to the Pembury Road traffic hotspot, despite daily chaos and complaints from traders that it is putting people off visiting.

Traffic lights were installed at the junction with Blackhurst Lane and Halls Hole Road as part of the nearby redevelopment of the Skinners' Kent Academy.

A meeting was held between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's joint transportation board and Kent County Council recently, but despite increasing frustration from drivers, it was agreed for a further six months to "monitor and fine tune" the operation.

During the meeting, it was revealed traffic in the area had dipped by 17 per cent during peak hours since the lights were put in place. But some motorists say it has added 30 minutes on to their journey.

And this has led to some businesses fearing the worst ahead of the Christmas period.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James said: "The one thing traders do not need is any barriers, if it's going to take an extra 30 minutes, are they going to go there?

"After the year retailers have had, they need Christmas sales to make up for the rest of the year."

The decision to continue to monitor the Pembury Road lights, rather than change it, has also enraged Liberal Democrat councillor David Neve. He said: "I'm not sure what fine-tuning will do. The situation needs changing, not tweaking. It's causing chaos."

■ **Full story – see inside.**

INSIDE

News. **2-26**
Kent Remembered **27**
Comment/Feedback **28-29**
Business Week. **30-31**
Training and careers. . . . **32**
Jobs & Notices. **33-38**

Kent Weekend

The Interview **43**
Food & Drink. . . . **45, 48-49**
Homes **52-55**
Driving **57-73**

ENTERTAINMENT

Event to open the ice rink

THE ice rink at Calverley Grounds will be opening on Friday for its second year.

A ceremony will be held at 6pm with a display by the Invicta Junior Dynamos ice hockey team under 16s.

A choir will sing Christmas carols and band Virgin Soldiers will be performing a live set.

EVENT

Improving road safety

TUNBRIDGE Wells is Traffic Aware will be working with the town's community safety unit to raise awareness of road safety and the risks of drink driving this month.

As part of the scheme, Captain Safety will visit the Assembly Hall Theatre on November 21.

ELECTION

Less than a quarter voted

ONLY 18 per cent of residents in the district took to the polls to vote for the new Police and Crime Commissioner post.

In the first round of voting, 6,370 people voted for Independent candidate Ann Barnes, who won the election with an overwhelming majority.

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PCC ELECTION

A Barnes-storming victory as Ann makes history in PCC election vote



Reporting team

Marijke Cox, Chrissie Daniels and Dean Kilpatrick

HISTORY was made this week with the election of Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

As the results slowly trickled in from across the county's districts to Dover Town Hall, the message from the public was loud and clear: this role should not be political.

Every district saw independent Ann Barnes storm to victory in the first count of the supplementary vote system, with the former Kent Police Authority chair securing 45.9per cent of the overall vote.

Second in the race was Conservative Craig Mackinlay with 24.7per cent.

But with no-one reaching that all important 50 per cent mark, it went to a second count.

Before this was even a third of the way through, it was clear Mrs Barnes had secured victory.

While the nail-biting second count took place, she thanked her supporters.

"I'm so grateful for the warm support all my friends, supporters and my campaign team have given me," she said.

Speaking to KoS as the votes were counted, Mr Mackinlay said: "We are not getting the results we would have liked across the county.

"Turnout is lower than even we expected and that has been reflected elsewhere across the country.

"People did not know what the police authority did and as an election, people found it hard to engage.

"People seem to have leaned towards the independent message, however flawed it is.

"Politics and the police have always been intertwined."

Mr Mackinlay also commented on the low turnout, where just 16.3per cent of the electorate voted.

"We were surprised at how low local turnout was while out on foot yesterday," he said.

"When people get home and it's dark they're not going to go out and vote."

He added: "The real thing coming out of the results is the loss of Labour votes.

"This is a county they will need to form the next government."

The election results saw Labour generally come third. Independent candidate Dai Liyanage failed to gain the support he had hoped for and Ukip's Piers Wauchope was unable to make much impact on the Tory vote.

Mrs Barnes as PCC will be responsible for governing the local police force and holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Kent Police.

She will have the power to hire and fire the Chief Constable, draw up and publish a police and crime plan, set the policing priorities and detail how and where money is spent.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth will remain responsible for operational matters at Kent Police and Mrs Barnes will hold the force to account and "be the voice of the people".

FIRST ROUND RESULTS

ASHFORD

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 8,148; Craig Mackinlay (Con) 3,630; Harriet Yeo (Lab) 1,345; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) 1,011; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) 699; Dai Liyanage (Ind) 381

CANTERBURY

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 8,079; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 4,559; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,745; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1320; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 832; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 682

DARTFORD

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 3,805; Craig Mackinlay (Con) 2,676; Harriet Yeo (Lab) 1.805; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) 892; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) 784; Dai Liyanage (Ind) 271

DOVER

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 7,847; Craig Mackinlay (Con) 3,403; Harriet Yeo (Lab) 1,960; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) 982; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) 664; Dai Liyanage (Ind) 367

GRAVESHAM

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 3,402; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 2,809; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 2,146; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 729; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 682; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 271

MAIDSTONE

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 10,762; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 4,310; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,633; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,107; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 1,012; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 578

MEDWAY

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 11,669; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 7,327; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 4,564; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 2,489; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,920; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 1,913

SEVENOAKS

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 5,665; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 4,778; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,163; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,025; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 702; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 452

SHEPWAY

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 10,554; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 2,683; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 984; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,216; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 698; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 327

SWALE

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 6,580; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 3,367; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,721; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,292; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 720; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 497

THANET

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 6,175; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 3,345; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,859; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,535; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 949; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 491

TONBRIDGE & MALLING

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 6,845; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 4,584; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,043; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,000; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 545; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 492

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Ann Barnes (Ind) – 6,370; Craig Mackinlay (Con) – 4,200; Harriet Yeo (Lab) – 1,037; Piers Wauchope (Ukip) – 1,964; Steven Uncles (Eng Dem) – 481; Dai Liyanage (Ind) – 368

She will pick up an £85,000 salary, hold a four year term and be able to recruit a team to work around her.

When Mrs Barnes announced her candidacy earlier this year she said she would recruit a young person to be the Kent Police Youth Commissioner to be the eyes and ears of young people in the county.

The PCC's activities will be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel, made up of councillors from all the districts in Kent and a number of independent members.

They will have the power to veto decisions on the local precept and the appointmentof a new Chief Constable, but ultimately the PCC will hold the power over the majority of decisions.

Critics could now question whether the election of Mrs Barnes will effectively see the creation of just another policing authority staffed by the same people as the Kent Police Authority.

But chair of Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon, who represents rank and file oficers, denied this.

"I think it will be very different to KPA," he said.

"The public – you, me – have been given the opportunity to directly elect somebody to oversee policing in the county."

He said if the election had been held in May, when other local elections were on, there may have been a better turnout.

But the question is whether the turnout will be any better in 2016.



FIRST LADY: Ann Barnes will be sworn in as PCC



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PARANORMAL

The Apeman Cometh: Spooky sighting in spa town ignites intrigue

By Chrissie Daniels
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YOU see some strange things in and around the county, but perhaps this could be the weirdest yet, after claims a British Bigfoot has been spotted in woodland near Tunbridge Wells.

Dubbed the Kentish Apeman, it is claimed he towers eight-foot tall, is covered in hair and has red demonic eyes.

And while that may sound like lots of people after a night on the town, what's intriguing many is the fact a recent sighting ties in with one nearly 70 years ago on the same spot.

The most recent sighting is believed to have taken place last month on Tunbridge Wells Common – the 200-acre wooded site which sits in the centre of the town and is one of its most picturesque features.

But after it was reported, it jogged the memory of another local resident who went online to reveal how it tallied closely with a story he had heard years ago.

The author, who billed themselves as Graham S from the town, revealed how when he was working as a painter in the house of an elderly lady, she regaled him with a tale of coming face to face with the apeman on the Common during World War Two.

The post read: "One particular day she went to the Common with her husband and was sitting on a bench when they became aware of a shuffling noise behind them.

"Upon turning around both her husband and herself saw what she described as a tall, hairy ape like creature with eyes that were burning a reddish colour and it was moving towards them at a slow pace. They observed this creature for some time until they became afraid and they both fled – terrified.

"She went on to say that they told the police and members of their family, thinking that a gorilla had escaped from a zoo, but were laughed at and were not believed."

Sceptics may say the incidents could be down to a trick of the light, but Neil Arnold, a paranormal expert from Rochester, said he has received numerous reports of the apeman over the years.

One of the sightings took place in Dartford by a girl named Charlotte who was heading home in her car from the University of Kent. She said she saw a creature with long arms and knees which came up under its chin as it walked. She was so petrified she nearly crashed her car.

Other sightings, according to Mr Arnold, include five members of the Territorial Army in 1991 spotting the beast on Blue Bell Hill, near Maidstone, and throwing stones and shouting at it before running away.

Another sighting in Chatham by a young girl with her partner saw the apeman appear then run off into the bushes.

Mr Arnold, who doesn't believe the apeman to be a flesh and blood 'monster', but a paranormal figure, has also had reports from Maidstone and Hythe. In each example the figure appears the same and Mr Arnold said tales of an apeman date back decades.

He said: "It's a very touchy subject in the sense that these things are really not normal. I get some unusual reports. There have been reports all over England, but we can never prove something paranormal."

Mr Arnold said he believes the reports could be similar to folklore tales which described 'wild men of the woods'.

He also compared the apeman to fictional children's character Stig of the Dump, which could have been inspired by a sighting as the author, Clive King, grew up in Kent.



WANTED: Have you spotted the apeman taking a stroll on Pantiles?

COURT

Jail for child porn pervert

A PERVERT who had nearly 100,000 child porn images on his computer has been jailed for 16 months.

Richard Murray, 45, of Ditton, was sentenced after pleading guilty to four counts of possessing indecent images of children, two counts of possessing extreme pornography, one count of possessing a prohibited image of a child and six counts of making indecent images of children.

CRIME

Ferry bomb hoaxer jailed

A HOAXER who claimed he had a bomb in his bag as he tried to board a cross-Channel ferry, is this week starting a six month jail sentence.

Carwyn Rees, 45, a cleaner from Cardiff, had approached staff after reaching Dover on September 22 in a coach and claimed to have a bomb in his rucksack. It prompted a major security scare. No explosives were found.

FARMING

Fear EU reductions to financial aid for farmers could mean the end for rare plant and wildlife

POPULAR species of wild animals and plantlife could be put at risk of extinction amid fears Brussels could be about to slash financial handouts to farmers.

For the last 25 years, farmers have been rewarded financially for making their land environmentally-friendly, with a view to protecting the environment and encouraging a rich diversity of wildlife. It has been credited with reversing population declines in a host of species.

But animal charity the RSPB says it fears EU grants could be reduced due to cost-cutting measures – and with it the erosion of the largest single fund for wildlife conservation in the UK.

A survey released on Friday revealed 96 per cent of farmers in the UK say environmental work on their farms would be impacted if the so-called agri-environment schemes were stopped or funding reduced.

Current schemes include growing particular blends of nectar flowers to help produce food for insects, and creating banks to boost insect and spider numbers.

Prime Minister David Cameron is due to travel to Brussels later this month to talk to European leaders, with agriculture spending on the agenda.

The RSPB claims if cuts are made, it could put species like the turtle dove, tree sparrow, brown hare and rare plants and butterflies at risk of extinction.

Now, in a bid to safeguard funds, the charity is urging people to write to Mr Cameron before his meeting with the European heads of state on November 22 and 23.

Gareth Harris, RSPB south east farmland conservation advisor, said: "We know that budgets are strained, but rewarding farmers for greater all-round environmental responsibility is excellent value for money, supporting farmland wildlife as well as improving water quality, land management and food production.

"The abundance of wildlife on these farms is simply an indicator of the health of the countryside."

Roland and Katrina Brown, from Heart's Delight Farm, Canterbury, said: "These schemes have been really successful, allowing wildlife-friendly management for the sustained periods that vulnerable target species often need to recover. A threat to this funding could be disastrous, as these hard-won gains could quickly be undone."

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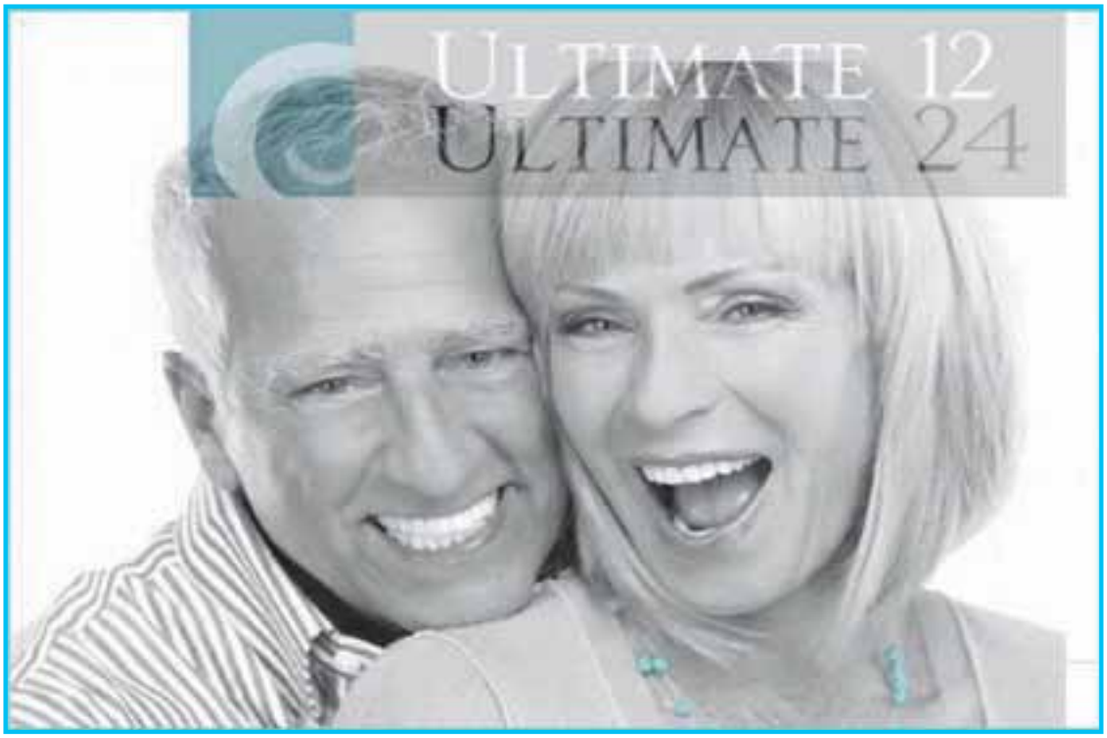
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PETS

Animals feel the pain of recession as owners struggle with soaring bills

SPECIAL REPORT

By Dean Kilpatrick
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PETS are increasingly becoming the victims of the economic slump as cash-strapped families are forced to give them up – only to put pressure on animal rescue centres which are struggling due to a drop in donations.

In a special report this week, we spoke to animal welfare groups across the county and were met with the same response; the situation is spiralling out of control.

Animal charities say they are facing "unprecedented" levels of unwanted pets being abandoned by owners who can't afford them. They include cats, dogs, horses and even reptiles.

The number of animals abandoned across the country has increased by 65 per cent over the last five years, and a number of centres in Kent have stopped taking in animals as they are inundated by struggling owners.

Yet they themselves are struggling to keep their heads above water as donations dwindle.

The Animal Samaritans is a national charity which looks to care for unwanted or neglected pets and offer support for owners.

The north west Kent branch, which covers Gravesend, Dartford, Medway and Maidstone, said it had seen a huge increase in the number of cats dumped.

Volunteer Valerie Croxford said: "We have had a bad year. Cats are being abandoned all over the place. We had three kittens dumped in a wheelie bin; Heaven knows what would have happened had the dustbin lorry come along before they were found.

"We're not coping – we do not have enough volunteers to help and our current account is running low, so we have to be careful how to share our finances."

All species of animal are feeling the effects of the recession – but horses and cats are suffering the most, according to animal charities.

Centre manager at the RSPCA Thanet branch, Clive Martin, said cat owners were not neutering their cats as a result of shrinking family budgets, leading to a boom in kittens.

Cats can become pregnant as young as 12 weeks, and families are struggling to care for the extra paws.

Mr Martin said: "They are free to roam and to mate with other cats, and at the moment it's a real problem.

"We are seeing an increase because people can't afford day-to-day bills, such as feeding. People are more likely to spend £20 on food for the table rather than neutering their cat."

And horses, which are the most expensive animals to look after as pets, are being dumped as a result of the recession by owners who haven't prepared for the costs of the winter. Horse owners need more feed, as well as winter jackets, during the cold period.

Canterbury Horse Rescue's Stella King, who has been working with animals for nearly 20 years, said it was the "worst she had ever seen", and urged people to think about the long-term welfare of their animals.

She said: "This is getting worse. This winter is going to be a hard one – I wish people would realise that the welfare of an animal is about affording to keep it after it's bought."

And an Ashford group which used to look after and rehome unwanted reptiles as a hobby has had to stop due to a high level of demand which the finances could not keep up with.

South East Exotic Pet Rescue's Matt Lacey said: "We never got any assistance and it was just too expensive to run. There aren't many reptile places out there and we had so many people giving them in and just moving onto the next pet."



DUMPED: Cats are suffering, but all animals, including dogs, are affected



CASE STUDIES

Happy Endings Rescue Faversham
The centre currently looks after 68 horses, 40 dogs, 60 cats, 21 barn owls, 30 rabbits, 40 sheep and five cows.
Costs the charity £108,000 per year. But it receives just £60,000 in donations and grants.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Brands Hatch
Has seen a dramatic increase in older dogs being given up by owners. It expects to see the number of dogs aged over seven exceed 75 by the end of the year. In 2007 the number was just 25.

RSPCA Nationally
Has launched an "urgent animal welfare crisis" appeal to foot the bill for the additional £5m it believes it will need to care for the estimated 6,000 cats and dogs which will be abandoned between now and the end of the year, across the UK.

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TRAVEL

Take-off for £99 flights which provide gateway to host of global destinations

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

IT was one of the worst kept secrets in the travel industry, but this week a new service flying from Manston to Amsterdam was confirmed as tickets went on sale ahead of an April launch.

The route will be flown by Dutch national airline KLM, which is merged with Air France.

Tickets will cost either £99 or £199 return and will provide users a 55-minute route to Schipol Aiport which, in turn, flies to more than 130 destinations, including the US, Asia and Africa.

The first flight will be on April 2.

There will be two outbound and two inbound flights a day from Manston, with airline bosses not ruling out the possibility of more if demand is strong. It is hoped the service will be particularly popular in the county, providing an alternative to jaunts around the M25 to existing London airports.

The launch follows KLM confirming in September it was interested in running a service. An online survey attracted more than 9,000 responses and an overwhelmingly positive response.

However, observers will be cautiously optimistic given the plight of previous flights from the airport – most notably the launch of services by EUjet which then went bust.

Henri Hourcade, general manager for Air France KLM in the UK, is confident the route will prove to be a success.

He said: "I am confident but we have to develop awareness that there is a possibility to get to the world from Kent.

"We will also sell Manston to our customers. We will put Manston on the map for our commercial flights and this will push Manston as the door to England."

He said the timetable of flights, the first leaving at 6.35am and the last returning at 9.45pm, means business travellers can take a day trip to Amsterdam for work, adding that this should encourage businesses to set up in Kent and allow local companies to begin trading abroad.

Mr Hourcade said if Manston Airport, which is owned by Infratil and is currently up for sale, changes hands, the KLM flights will make it more attractive.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive at the airport said he will be recruiting 28 more staff members to help with the service.

He said: "I am thrilled and excited and we could not wish for a better partner."

The plane used for the journeys will be a Fokker 70 jet aircraft which can carry 80 passengers and its first flight will be piloted by Simon King from Kent, who trained with the Red Arrows.

Thanet and east Kent Chamber of Commerce chief executive David Foley said: "Given the considerable savings in time and money to local long haul passengers transiting via Amsterdam, there is every reason to suppose that the arrival of KLM in Manston will stimulate employment in east Kent, reduce costs for exporters and boost tourism throughout the county."

Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale said: "People can dream of a third runway at Heathrow, a second runway at Gatwick or Boris Island but all of those dreams are 20 years down the construction line and the demand for more capacity in the south east is immediate."

Picture: TIM STUBBINGS



FLYING HIGH: Charles Buchanan with KLM's Henri Hourcade at the launch of the new service at Canterbury Cathedral this week

KLM IN NUMBERS

28	**jobs created at Manston**
4	flights a day
80	**passengers per flight**
130	destinations from Amsterdam
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WARD CLOSURE: Medway Maritime Hospital was hit by its first case of norovirus earlier than usual this year

HEALTH

Winter sickness bug closes ward as health chiefs issue warnings

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

WINTER vomiting bug norovirus is back and causing havoc as health chiefs warn numbers of cases are on the rise.

The highly infectious condition that causes vomiting and diarrhoea, is usually prevelant during the winter months. But this year it seems the virus has begun early and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has reported seeing a rise in cases.

Earlier this month, Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham was forced to close its Will Adams ward when seven people were diagnosed.

A hospital trust spokeswoman said the ward had to remain closed for 72 hours after the last identified case.

The ward was then given a 'deep cleanse' before it was reopened.

The HPA said it is hard to tell how many cases of the virus there are each year as many people do not visit their doctors with the symptoms and there is no obligation for it to be reported.

Norovirus is the most common stomach bug in the UK and can affect all ages. As it is so infectious, vulnerable people in care homes, schools and hospitals are particularly at risk.

Dr James Sedgwick, interim director of the Kent Health Protection Unit said: "Outbreaks of norovirus infection are common as winter approaches. The virus spreads rapidly from person to person, especially in institutions such as hospitals, residential care homes and schools.

"In hospitals, it is often necessary to isolate individual cases and closures of wards are common as measures are taken to contain the infection and stop it spreading."

FACTFILE

- The symptoms are vomiting and diarrhoea. Some people have a raised temperature, headaches and aching limbs.
- Hospitals are asking people with the virus not to visit loved ones to avoid spreading the infection to vulnerable patients.
- The HPA advises people with norovirus to take time off work until they have been symptom-free for at least 48 hours. It also said not to visit your GP or accident and emergency department as there is no treatment, but to take fluids to avoid dehydration.
- However, if your symptoms appear to worsen call NHS Direct or your GP.



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RELIGION

New archbishop 'will need all his diplomatic skills' to meet challenges faced by the Church

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk



IN THE FRAME: Set to take on the post at the end of the year, the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Justin Welby, was a successful businessman before joining the Church

THE next Archbishop of Canterbury has "good potential for an impossible job", says a leading scholar.

Professor Jeremy Carrette, head of religious studies and head of religion and culture at the University of Kent, said the decision to appoint the Right Reverend Justin Welby was a "creative" one.

Dr Welby, a former oil executive, will take over the reigns of the Church of England when Dr Rowan Williams steps down at the end of the year.

Dr Welby, 56, is currently Bishop of Durham. He will be officially enthroned in March.

Prof Carrette said: "He will be the first ever archbishop to have a background in business and the oil industry and will potentially bridge theological ethics and the business world. He will need all his diplomatic skills from the business world and his envoy work to resolve the splits inside the Anglican Church.

"The interesting aspect to watch will be how his evangelical theology will interact with political tensions over gay priests. He is a supporter of women bishops, but his attitude to gay priesthood will be his key challenge and most difficult decision. The issue is whether he seeks to follow the unity of the church over the justice and rights of individual men and women to work without discrimination.

"As head of the worldwide Anglican community the difficulty is also to balance the views of very diverse constituencies in Africa and North America and central to their relationship is the combined politics of poverty and sexuality.

"It is a creative appointment, and someone with good potential for an impossible job."

Certainly he faces no simple task. The Church remains damagingly split over gay priests and women bishops. In addition, there is a more pressing challenge with dwindling congregations amid a shift to an apparently more secular society. Yet the world remains so frequently dictated by religious ideology, and Dr Welby will have bridging the gap between the religions near the top of his agenda.

The Bishop of Dover, Trevor Willmott, will be the archbishop's right-hand man. He looked forward to welcoming Dr Welby.

He said: "He has a powerful vision for the Church in contemporary society and a breadth of experience in the Church and in the world. I can think of no-one better to lead the Anglican Church.

"Bishop Welby has demonstrated a deep commitment to the communities he has served, including those struggling socially and economically in Liverpool and Durham."

Dr Welby was one of the frontrunners to become the 105th archbishop when Dr Williams announced his retirement.

Speaking in New Zealand earlier this month, Dr Williams said his successor would need to "preach with a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other".

Following last Friday's announcement, Dr Welby said: "I don't think anyone could be more surprised than me at the outcome of this process. To be nominated to Canterbury is overwhelming and astonishing."

DR JUSTIN WELBY

THE next archbishop has a fascinating past, tainted by tragedy and with more than its fair share of drama. It is experience which should put him in a strong position for such a demanding role.

Prior to entering the priesthood, he was a successful businessman in the oil industry. But his life was to change in 1983 when a car accident robbed him of his seven-month-old daughter. The father-of-six said the tragedy brought both him and his wife closer to God.

As an envoy to some of the most war-torn parts of Africa, he frequently found himself staring down the barrel of a gun prior to negotiations.

He became Dean of Liverpool Cathedral in 2007 and Bishop of Durham in 2011.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S PLACE IN KENT

AS head of the Anglican Church with some 800 million members worldwide, the archbishop spends little time in Kent.

His main office is at Lambeth Palace in London, but he is well aware of his role as leader of the Diocese of Canterbury, which covers 335 churches across Kent.

The Bishop of Dover has the power to make decisions on the archbishop's behalf and keeps him updated.

The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Dr Robert Wallis, said: "We very much look forward to welcoming Dr Welby to Canterbury for the enthronement and to both him and his family becoming a part of this community."

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CELEBRITY

Brad and Angelina stay in £3,000-a-week luxury cottage during filming

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HOLLYWOOD couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stayed in a stunning holiday cottage – complete with flatscreen 3D TV, pool table and grand piano – in a sleepy village near Canterbury earlier this month, it has been confirmed.

The superstars and their children were in Kent while Mr Pitt re-shot scenes from upcoming blockbuster zombie movie World War Z.

And while they stayed in a luxurious £3,000-a-week converted barn, they also went shopping in the local stores and visited nearby Howletts Wild Animal Park.

The post-apocalyptic movie, based on the best-selling book by Max Brooks, is due for release next summer. Scenes were shot at the Discovery Park in Sandwich – the sprawling former home of US drug giant Pfizer – and a short drive from the village retreat. But the company that rents exclusive holiday cottages in Kent says it only realised who its VIP guests were after the superstars had jetted back to the US.

They stayed at The Treasury in Ickham, a sumptuous barn conversion featuring "breathtaking huge rooms, floor to ceiling windows and beamed, vaulted ceilings throughout".



STAR MAN: Brad Pitt was filming in Sandwich

A spokeswoman at Canterbury-based rental firm Mulberry Cottages said: "We have only just found out they were staying with us. It was booked through a production company."

And she joked: "They left it in good condition, so got their deposit back."

Some reports suggested Mr Pitt popped along to nearby The Duke William pub, but owner Kate Coleman denies that happened.

She said: "They stayed in the village and we had their security stay with us.

"He didn't make an appearance. He was filming all week.

"She [Ms Jolie] went to Littlebourne stores and to the post office to send cards from their children to Father Christmas."

At the post office, shop assistant Fiona Lindsay said: "They came in on Friday. I was working in the shop at the time and I served her in the shop. She was so polite and a really nice person, I was quite shocked – she was so lovely.

"She bought the kids magazines and toys and one packet of sweets each. The children were also polite.

"They made a lot of noise at one point. There were two bodyguards outside and one inside. It was a surreal moment."

Ms Jolie is also said to have taken their six-strong brood Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh, Vivienne and Knox, to nearby Howletts in Bekesbourne.

A spokesman at the park was a little shy about their famous visitors, and said: "I'm afraid I'm going to have to give the 'no comment' answer to that one."

The news was broken by entertainment company E! and quotes an insider saying: "The kids all took their fishing rods and bikes and spent a lot of time playing outside while Brad was shooting reshoots for World War Z."

Scenes from the movie had been due to be shot at the site of the Morrisons supermarket near Tunbridge Wells railway station last year. But news leaked and the production company, anxious fans could disrupt filming, changed their plans and instead filmed in Glasgow.





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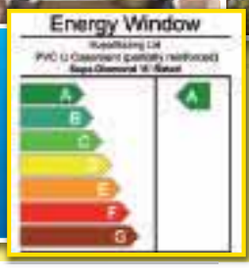
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POLITICS

Tory MP feels the heat after another stormy seven days

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

EQUALITIES minister Helen Grant found herself unable to navigate an easy path out of an increasingly embarrasing political storm this week, as it continued to blow havoc through her constituency office.

Earlier this month, the Maidstone Conservative MP and solicitor was left furiously denying claims by consituency assistant Tony Williams she had altered his employment contract to deny him statutory sick pay.

But it was the issue of selling her Albion Road office in the county town which this week saw one political opponent insist she resign.

It followed a statement issued last week which said that due to her new junior minister position "local surgery matters... can best be dealt with at her parliamentary office".

This week, however, Mrs Grant issued a revised statement, saying that, contrary to reports, she has "no intention of expecting constituents to come to London for surgery appointments" and that, "she will conduct regular surgeries in Maidstone and Cranbrook as she does now".

A statement said: "Although no decision has been taken at this stage, it is understood that the present office building may be sold. If this is the case, Mrs Grant will have to vacate.

"If the decision is taken not to replace the permanent office, Mrs Grant's surgeries and meetings would still take place in Maidstone on a regular basis, and in the Weald Centre in Cranbrook, as is presently the case, and possibly other centres as needed.

"The remark last week related to the casework arising out of surgery meetings, not the surgeries themselves."

But it came after an angry response from Kent Green Party chair Stuart Jeffery who stood against Mrs Grant in the 2010 General Election.

He raged: "Maidstone's MP clearly doesn't have time for the people she is supposed to represent. Helen Grant should resign from her ministerial job, and her second job as a solicitor if she still has it, to concentrate on representing the people of Maidstone."

Mrs Grant's office slammed the comments.

A spokesman said: "Mr Jeffery needs to check his facts before issuing false statements."

With regard the employment row with Mr Williams, her office said no decision had been made about his position.

A statement added: "Mrs Grant's constituency assistant remains an employee and has not been made redundant. We have attempted to consult with Mr Williams, but he said that he has been told he is not well enough to attend a meeting."

Tony Williams confirmed he had been notified of the possibility of losing his position via e-mail, but has not been able to meet with Helen Grant's representatives to discuss the matter further due to poor health.



TOUGH TIME: MP Helen Grant

CRIME

Police issue warning over car security after alarming patrol

MOTORISTS are being urged not to put temptation in the way of crooks, by ensuring their cars are properly secured.

It follows a patrol in Maidstone town centre recently which saw seven cars found either unlocked or with windows open. Other cars had phones, cash and bags clearly visible.

Inspector Geoff Wyatt said: "It takes a thief literally seconds to steal your belongings from a car. By simply locking your car, removing valuables and taking them with you will reduce this crime."

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TRANSPORT

Traders fret as controversial traffic lights stay

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

NO changes are to be made to a traffic hotspot in Tunbridge Wells, despite daily chaos and complaints from traders that it is putting people off visiting.

Traffic lights installed on the busy Pembury Road have caused headaches for motorists who find their journey in and out of the town slowed dramatically. The lights at the junction with Blackhurst Lane and Halls Hole Road were introduced as part of the nearby redevelopment of the Skinners' Kent Academy.

A meeting was held between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's joint transportation board and Kent County Council recently, but despite increasing frustration from drivers, it was agreed for a further six months to "monitor and fine tune" the operation.

During the meeting, it was revealed traffic in the area had dipped by 17 per cent during peak hours since the lights were put in place. But some motorists say it has added 30 minutes on to their journey.

And this has led to some businesses fearing the worst ahead of the Christmas period.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James said: "The one thing traders do not need is any barriers, if it's going to take an extra 30 minutes, are they going to go there?

"After the year retailers have had, they need Christmas sales to make up for the rest of the year. I would hope common sense prevails."

The decision to continue to monitor the Pembury Road lights, rather than change it, has also enraged Liberal Democrat councillor David Neve.

He said: "I'm not sure what fine-tuning will do. The situation needs changing, not tweaking. It's causing chaos."

KCC bosses claim residents asked for the new system after a rise in traffic and concerns over safety near the school.

However, bus firm Arriva say the delays on the road have not got any worse.

Commercial manager Matthew Arnold said: "We haven't noticed any improvement or more delays. There are still queues at peak times."



SLOW: Traffic lights on Pembury Road are frustrating drivers

Despite the frustrations, many residents are happy with the new system. Those in Sandown Park attended the meeting to defend the lights, claiming it had improved the safety record of the area.

KCC has also backed the system and said alterations will be made to reflect the traffic flow at different times of the day.

Director of highways and transportation, John Burr, said: "Traffic lights are put there to meet the needs of all road users and not just the main road.

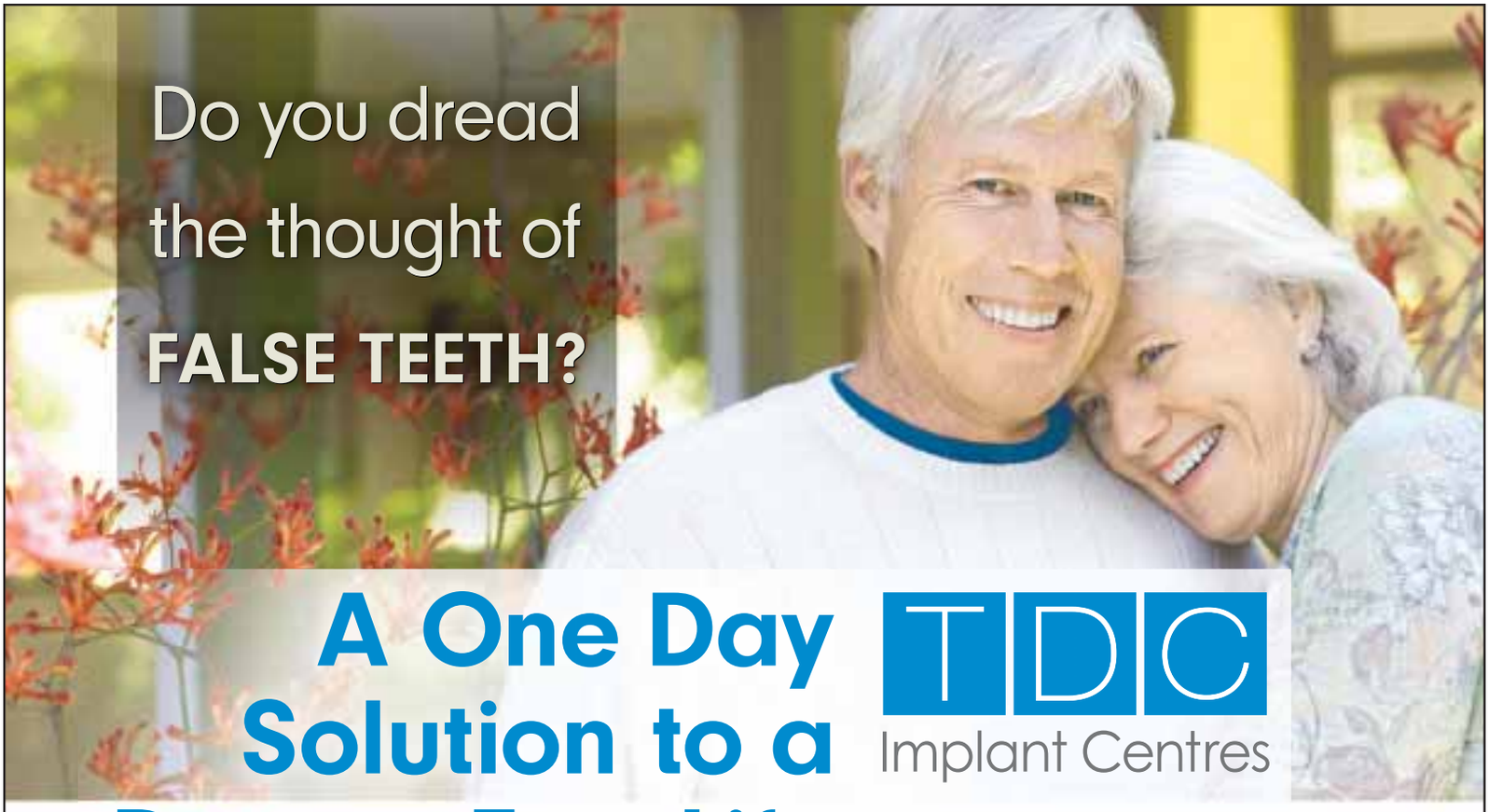
"The lights learn the traffic movements and evolve over the process. We are working on it, and we have two other phases to improve the system."

A number of alternatives were thought of at the time, including a roundabout.

Mr Burr previously admitted: "We are managing the conflicting demands of Pembury Road users and the traffic from Skinners' Kent Academy. Traffic on the main road will be delayed by a red light when it wasn't in the past."







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News



REMEMBRANCE

Remembering the lost souls

THOUSANDS of people took to the streets last weekend to pay tribute to the fallen as Kent remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts past and present on Remembrance Sunday.

Among those services taking place was one at the War Memorial in Central Park, Dartford, which saw hundreds attend.

Mayor of Dartford, Ann Allen, said: "I was very privileged and humbled to lead the tributes. I was especially impressed and encouraged by the number of uniformed youth organisations. We must never forget the enormous debt we owe to those who made the supreme sacrifice."

COURT

Drink driver is banned

A MOTORIST has been banned from driving for four years after he pleaded guilty to being more than three times over the legal drink drive limit.

Andrew Dunbar, 56, of Brantwood Way, Orpington, was stopped in his VW Golf in Sundridge, near Sevenoaks, in September.

He gave police a breath test of 108 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

The legal limit is 35 microgrammes. He was also ordered to pay costs.

EVENTS

Blockheads tuning up

LEGENDARY rock 'n' rollers The Blockheads are to perform at the Mick Jagger Centre in Dartford next month as part of their 35th anniversary tour.

The band, originally fronted by Ian Dury and best known for their hits Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick, Reasons To Be Cheerful, and Sex & Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll, will perform at the venue on December 1.

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News



VICIOUS: Perry Morris has been jailed for stabbing victim

COURT

Stab thugs in court

A THUG who stabbed a 20-year-old from Erith in the back with a potato peeler and left him bleeding on a railway station, is this week starting a three-year prison sentence.

Perry Morris, 18, pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm after the incident at Westgate-on-Sea railway station in June of 2011. It left his victim with punctured lungs.

Two other men involved in the attack - Danny Gray, 17, and Jacey Daly, 18 - both received two-year youth and rehabilitation orders after also pleading guilty.

The victim spent nine days in hospital in Margate for puncture wounds to his back. All three men appeared before Canterbury Crown Court on Tuesday.

CRIME

Asda robbery: Duo arrested

A SECOND man has been arrested as police continue to probe a robbery at a Gravesend supermarket.

A cash box was swiped from the Asda store in Thames Way on November 6 in a dramatic raid. As security guards arrived to fill up the cash-machine, a red Mini Cooper pulled up and two balaclava-clad men robbed them of the cash. Both have been released on bail.

EVENTS

X Factor stars turn on lights

X FACTOR stars District3 flicked the switch on the festive lights at a Tunbridge Wells shopping centre on Thursday.

The boy band, who lost the public vote last weekend, were part of a series of special events at the Royal Victoria Place complex.

They performed before the crowds, and were joined by Heart DJ Toby Anstis.

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TRANSPORT

Scheme to crack down on HGVs using our rural roads gathers speed as authorities vow action

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LORRIES using inappropriate rural routes are being targeted by a new scheme aiming to encourage HGV drivers to be more considerate of communities.

A huge proportion of lorries travelling between the UK and Europe travel through Kent, with some cutting through villages, using small roads and causing damage to property and the highway.

Now a scheme called Lorry Watch has been launched by Kent County Council in conjunction with Kent Police, the Kent Association of Local Councils, and Leeds and Langley parish councils, to target the problem.

The pilot was held on the B2163 Leeds Road which, although subject to a 17-tonne vehicle weight restriction, is often used by large vehicles as a cut through between the A20 and the A274.

Lorry Watch aims to support and empower residents in areas where HGV through traffic presents a major issue.

Residents in Leeds Road were provided with signs to publicise the scheme and warn HGV drivers the project was under way.



TAKING ACTION: The pilot scheme aims to reduce the number of heavy goods vehicles using inappropriate country lanes as cut throughs

Volunteers recorded identifying features of large vehicles on unsuitable roads, which will be passed onto Kent Police.

Operators will then be contacted to find out about routing through the area. This will educate drivers to avoid unsuitable roads, wherever possible, and operators will be encouraged to route their vehicles in a considerate manner.

Kent County Council cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, Bryan Sweetland, said: "We cannot have very large lorries driving along inappropriate small rural roads causing damage to property and the highway.

"Armed with information about which lorries are using a route and why, we will be able to work towards better routing of lorry traffic. It is essential to protect villages and the Kent countryside, while at the same time, balancing the needs of rural businesses.

"We are looking for community champions to help with the rollout of Lorry Watch."

Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils, John Wilson, welcomed the pilot scheme and said they had been campaigning for action to restrict HGVs passing through rural villages for many years.

"Whilst we understand rural businesses' need for large vehicles, it is important their detrimental effects are mitigated.

"Lorry Watch will go a long way to helping our cause, and we look forward to working together with partners and communities, an excellent example of localism in action."

The Freight Transport Association attended the launch of Lorry Watch.

Head of policy for the Freight Transport Association, Natalie Chapman, said: "FTA understands that a large lorry in a small village isn't perfect, and the best routes are not always the ideal routes for everybody, but for many drivers it is their only option.

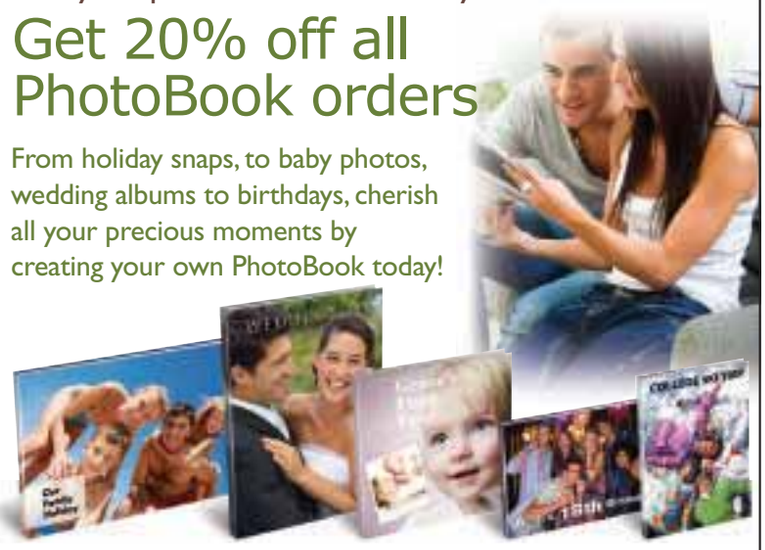
"We will be looking to work with Kent County Council, the public and FTA members in order to develop appropriate solutions based on the data collected from Lorry Watch.

"We see this project as an opportunity to help people understand the essential role that the logistics industry plays in of our everyday lives."

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SAFETY

...while FTA welcomes move to increase HGV speed limits

THE Freight Transport Association has welcomed a government announcement to look at speeding up larger lorries on our roads.

The Tunbridge Wells-based campaign group said the Department for Transport is consulting on raising the speed limit for heavy goods vehicles on single carriageways.

The FTA said it has long backed a speed increase to reduce the speed differential between HGVs and other vehicles.

Roads minister Stephen Hammond ordered the consultation after it was claimed it could boost economic growth.

The current speed limit on single carriageways for HGVs over 7.5t is 40mph, and under the proposals, this could be raised to 45 or 50mph, he said.

The transport department said the freight industry say this will help growth by improving journey times, cutting congestion and reducing costs to business and the cost of goods people buy. It could also reduce the number of collisions caused by other road users overtaking slower moving lorries.



LIMITED: The review would look at raising lorry speed limits on single carriageways

Malcolm Bingham, FTA head of road network management policy, told this paper: "We believe that firstly it will reduce the number of incidents where drivers overtake or attempt to overtake slower moving HGVs who are simply complying with the national speed limit. We know from observations by FTA members, drivers on these roads often become impatient and take unacceptable risk to get past goods vehicles.

"Another issue that has been raised is the acceptability of travelling at higher speed than set by the national speed limits. DfT figures indicate that many drivers may exceed that 40 mph limit on these single carriageway roads. Whilst our members would not want their drivers to disobey any speed limit and many feel it is inappropriate behaviour to do so; it creates a stressful situation when driving a vehicle at a lower speed than others, particularly when other road users try to encourage the HGV to move faster."

And he added: "Legitimising a new speed limit will take away the stress felt by all drivers in these circumstances, which we believe will lead to improved road safety."

The consultation was launched on November 9 and runs until February 1 next year.

Mr Hammond said: "The government is committed to doing everything it can to improve conditions for economic growth. We are consulting on increasing the single carriage way speed limit for certain HGVs after listening to industry experts who say this will boost the UK economy and businesses of all sizes."

The speed limit for smaller HGVs, between 3.5t and 7.5t, is 50mph, and will remain unchanged.

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DEVELOPMENT

After 'wasting £750,000', controversial regeneration partnership is disbanded

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL regeneration company set up to transform publicly-owned buildings in Tunbridge Wells has been dissolved, with one politician branding it a collosal waste of taxpayers' money.

David Neve, leader of the Liberal Democrats on the town's borough council, estimates the authority spent £750,000 on the project over the past four years and that nothing has been gained.

The Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company was a joint 50/50 partnership between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and developer John Laing.

Set up in December 2008, it was designed to evaluate 38 public-owned sites and examine opportunities to push ahead with civic, retail, commercial, community or residential property opportunities by "redeveloping or regeneration [of] assets".

However, it found itself at the centre of huge controversy over plans to redevelop the civic complex and Town Hall.



PROPOSALS: The civic complex was one of the more sensitive properties to fall under the remit of the regeneration partnership

The plans were so contentious, they were eventually put on ice after the public backlash.

However, a number of projects did go ahead. It covered Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood, Southborough and Cranbrook.

But on Thursday the council confirmed the partnership was at an end and that it would have to pay a settlement cost – but refused to state how much, saying the figure was "commercially sensitive".

The council said the partnership had made "good progress" and prepared proposals for priority sites in Cranbrook and John Street.

A spokesman for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) added: "It also completed evidence-based work for Tunbridge Wells town centre and progressed options on Mount Pleasant Avenue.

"However, despite these steps forward, the economic downturn and subsequent public sector cuts agenda following the Government's last comprehensive spending review, has forced TWBC to reassess its key corporate priorities.

"TWBC was no longer able to consider the regeneration partnership a priority and consequently, it was unable to approve the business case for the sites."

David Jukes, leader of the council, said: "Various things came up that were beyond our control. When this company was set up, we had not hit the banking crisis. Economic times have changed."

Jamie Kerr, head of strategic partnerships at John Laing, added: "We are extremely disappointed to have dissolved our partnership with TWBC but with careful consideration to the external factors that have surrounded the scheme, we and TWBC are completely satisfied with our joint decision."

But Mr Neve said the partnership was a waste of time and the council is where it was four years ago.

He said: "All along the Lib Dems said they did not need to start it [the partnership] up. We did not support it. Now they have pulled the plug. It has cost somewhere in the region of £750,000 to the taxpayer and Joe Public has got nothing out of it. It has just been wasted.

"This has taken four leaders of the council to get to this position. We are back where we started."

COUNCIL Q&A

Whose decision was it to end the regeneration company partnership?
The decision was a joint one. The shareholders' agreement contained a five-year review built in for both parties to consider. The start of this review was scheduled to begin in June 2013. However with consideration of the economic downturn the council and John Laing agreed to bring the review forward, leading to the joint decision to end the partnership.

What happens to the 38 sites?
The council will consider the sites as part of its asset management plan.

Are there any plans for the Town Hall site now?
The Town Hall is a key asset within the council portfolio but there are no plans for the site at present.

Would it have been cheaper to develop individual sites?
On an individual site basis that may have been the case, and the council could have procured separately on 38 occasions.

Setting up the company allowed the council to complete only one procurement process and gain long term efficiencies through working with a development partner. It is accepted that the council will now need to take forward sites on an individual basis.

The work already completed by the company will be used to make this as efficient as possible.

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Pictures: UNIVERSITY OF READING



Remarkable discovery finds hall fit for a king

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A RARE Anglo-Saxon feasting hall fit for a king, believed to date back to the 6th century, has been uncovered by a team of archaeologists.

Experts from the University of Reading, who worked alongside Kent Archaeological Society and Canterbury Archaeological Trust members, have discovered the historic site in Lyminge, near Folkestone, after a series of excavations.

The hall, which measures 21 metres by 8.5 metres, was found by the team who celebrated the find by marking the outline of the hall in burning candles as the night sky began to emerge.

It's the first such find in more than 30 years, and historians are now trying to piece the history of the village together with hopes the feasting hall will shine a light on the origins of Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England.

Initial findings show the site would have been able to accommodate up to 60 people, and formed part of a building complex used for royal assemblies attended by the king and his armed entourage.

The dig follows previous excavations in Lyminge, which have revealed extensive remains of an Anglo-Saxon monastery, believed to be from between the 7th and 9th century, just inches beneath open areas of the village.

Lecturer in archaeology at the University of Reading, Dr Gabor Thomas, said: "This hall is remarkably well preserved.







DISCOVERY: Archaeologists are being kept busy at the site of the Anglo-Saxon feasting hall. Bottom right is a decorative mount from around 525-575 AD which is among the finds from the dig

"With a ground-plan in excess of 160m square, the hall is comparable in scale and importance to some of the largest Saxon timber halls previously excavated in England at sites such as Yeavering and Cowdery's Down.

"The hall provides an exceedingly rare glimpse of royal accommodation of a type otherwise evoked in the Anglo-Saxon poem Beowulf.

"Such structures were manifestly not 'houses' – they were prestigious buildings used at specific times for a specific purpose such as periodic gatherings involving feasting and gift-giving that reinforced the social bonds between the king and his loyal retainers."

Artefacts discovered at the site included fragments of luxury glass vessels and a rare bridal fitting associated with the Anglo-Saxon warrior elite.

Dr Thomas added: "Nearly all the archaeological information shedding light on Kent around the time of the conversion to Christianity is based upon cemetery finds.

"The site at Lyminge is the first to provide a detailed picture of life at an aristocratic estate centre in Anglo-Saxon Kent during the height of the kingdom's political power at the end of the 6th century."

Evidence also suggests the building was badly damaged by a fire, but it is believed the hall was abandoned as tribes converted to Christianity.

Experts believe there is more to be discovered at the site, and following the "unanticipated" find, more excavations will be carried out next summer.



OPINION

Stay well in colder weather

Families can take simple steps to keep healthy this winter, says **Meradin Peachey**, director of public health for Kent

AS WE enter the flu, coughs and colds season, there are easy things you can do to prevent yourself becoming unwell.

You can also help the NHS by asking yourself if your condition is an emergency, a serious injury or illness that needs to be treated at an Accident and Emergency department.

According to an NHS survey, 12 per cent of people admit to using A&E when they knew they didn't need to, such as for tummy bugs, chest infections, coughs and colds. People who do this are likely to have a long wait and take NHS resources away from those who really need them.

Washing your hands regularly and well is the single most important thing you can do to prevent illnesses, such as tummy bugs and flu.

It is particularly important for young children, older people and those who prepare food for them, as the young and elderly are vulnerable to gastroenteritis, including norovirus (winter vomiting disease), which is increasingly common in winter.

Flu can be very serious for some people. Please have a free NHS flu vaccination at your GP practice if you are over 65, have a serious health condition or are pregnant.

Prevent the spread of illness by using tissues to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, putting them in a bin and washing your hands well. Remember – catch it, bin it and kill it.

One of the best ways of keeping yourself well during winter is to stay warm.

Cold air can trigger respiratory symptoms, such as wheezing and shortness of breath.

People with serious long-term conditions, such as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema) or heart problems, should try not to go out when the temperature plummets.

Keep your home warm, between 18C (56F) and 21C (70F), and stock up on food and medicines.

Also, take care when you are walking on icy footpaths and wear suitable, well-fitting footwear to minimise your risk of falling.

Sore throats, coughs, colds and flu are caused by viruses and antibiotics have no effect on them. If you are coughing, sneezing, have a blocked nose, sore throat, or a temperature and these are your only symptoms, ask your pharmacist for advice.

If you are being sick or have diarrhoea, drink plenty of water or rehydration fluids (available from pharmacies) to prevent dehydration. Most people get better within 48 hours.



Coughs, colds and flu are caused by viruses and antibiotics have no effect

Please don't visit anyone in hospital or a care home if you feel unwell – a bug which is mild for someone in good health can be dangerous for more vulnerable people.

If you need to see a doctor, contact your GP practice and say if it is urgent. When your practice is closed, if you cannot wait until it re-opens, phone South East Health on 03000 24 24 24 (Kent) or, in Medway, call Medway On Call Care (MedOCC) on 01634 891855 for the out of hours service.

Minor injury units and walk-in centres open late, until 8pm or 9pm. Minor injury units can treat, for instance, burns, sprains, cuts and foreign bodies in the eye, nose and ear.

You can also call NHS Direct on 0845 4647 for advice.

Please keep Accident and Emergency departments free for those who really need help.

KOS COMMENT

Pets are not a fad so think before you buy

THE well-known message 'a dog is for life, not just for Christmas' is perhaps more true now than ever before as charities struggle with unprecedented levels of unwanted pets being abandoned by their cash-strapped owners.

Kittens, horses, reptiles and even dogs are been left and while some are given to charities, others are just dumped, left to fend for themselves or, in many cases, perish.

Pets aren't just an accessory that can be shoved in the back of a cupboard when they're no longer wanted. The problem will only get worse if people ignore the long term factors of having a pet, leading to more beautiful animals being dumped.

Has Bigfoot returned?

WE'VE had big cat sightings and reports of ghostly hitchhikers, but perhaps this latest claim is the weirdest yet.

A British Bigfoot living in Kent? Few have seen it. Few will believe it. But it will provide great material for Kent's large selection of spooky tales.



Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter



Knole House in Sevenoaks by Ivor Dennis from Rainham

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Opinion shows hidden agenda

THANK you Dave Mairs (Opinion, last week) for succinctly summing up the situation in our county as regards the attitudes of the powers that be, concerning local comunities trying to prevent unsuitable and unwanted housing developments in their areas.

We in Chilmington Green are fighting to prevent a 5,750 house 'Garden City' from being built on 1,000 acres of farmland in our small hamlet.

This proposed development is in addition to the many thousands of outline planning permissions for properties already granted in Ashford borough, and as yet unbuilt, due to lack of demand.

Every empty piece of land is at risk in this county, readers be vigilant.

Sarah Stanfield, Ashford

He was too fast for any road

WHAT a strange attitude to speeding Terry Hudson of Swalecliffe seems to have.

At the speed he was travelling, [TV's Masterchef presenter] Greg Wallace would have been exceeding the speed limit irrespective of the class of road he was on, and on the A249, where he was observed, there are also gaps in the central reservation to allow traffic to cross, so exceeding the speed limit on that road carries additional risk.

From letters I have had published previously on this issue some readers might have formed the impression I am 'anti-speed'; but far from it.

For example, I believe the speed limit on motorways should be higher, but despite discussions about it, I don't think it's going to happen.

I also believe the case for retaining the 50mph speed limit on the A249 through Jade's Crossing is well made and there is no case for increasing it; and the remainder of it, all the way to the Stockbury roundabout, has various inherent hazards along it that make camera enforcement wholly justified.

If anyone disagrees, just compare the character of this dual carriageway to the A2 London bound. On leaving Kent and entering the London borough of Bexley the speed limit reduces to 50mph and it never goes above that on any road all the way to the M1, despite the fact many of the roads are wider carriageways, far superior in terms of 'risk reduction' than the A249.

So, anyone caught exceeding the speed limit on the latter shouldn't be crying 'foul' and expecting others to come to their defence by claiming the cameras shouldn't be there, but and plead guilty as Mr Wallace chose to do.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

Data paints the actual picture

TERRY Hudson may wish to read the information on our website a little more closely which states that camera vans operate within the signed areas at fixed camera sites.

The fixed camera site on Detling Hill is included in this, and is clearly marked on the camera map.

As stated in the details released to the media, the camera site was installed because there were eight people killed or seriously injured along that stretch of road.

The objective of enforcement is to reduce speeds through the signed area. We do not by law have to put the black and white signs up but we do this to warn motorists of a fixed and/or mobile camera van along particular stretches of road.

Casualties and speeds have been reduced along this stretch of road, and all sites are reviewed annually to ensure they are fit for purpose.

With regards to 'trotting out the usual blurb' – the press details were in relation to an offence and prosecution of 82mph in a 50mph limit and stated the reason the camera was installed in the first place.

If Mr Hudson would like any of this data evidenced, K&MSCP would be happy to oblige and he can email communications@kmscp.org.

Katherine Barrett, communications officer, Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership

Strategy just not the ticket

YOUR correspondent Rex Priggen of Westgate-on-Sea, (KOS, last week), reflects the widespread concern of all in the south east about the destruction of our high streets by the escalation of on-street parking charges.

When Tory controlled Shepway council published what is turning out to be it's disastrous so-called 'parking strategy' last year, we in the Folkestone & Hythe Constituency Labour Party instigated local referenda in the towns of Folkestone and Hythe, which resulted in a staggering 96 per cent majority voting against the introduction of on-street metering.

Blind to this demonstration of public opposition, in September the council went ahead with the introduction of meters in areas of close proximity to Folkestone town centre.

The consequent reduction in footfall by shoppers is causing concern to shops and businesses in the area.

I agree with Rex Priggen. What we really need of course, is councillors with a little common sense.

John Stockham, executive member, Folkestone & Hythe Constituency Labour Party

Export trade is unfair for UK

I WOULD like to reply to the letter (KOS 4/1/12) from Chris Smith concerning the live animal export trade.

Really, Mr Smith, your argument is completely illogical. You say you want to see sheep in the fields to make our countryside look "pretty".

Then add that you are happy to see those same sheep shipped abroad for slaughter.

Those of us who demonstrate against this cruel and unnecessary trade, also want to see sheep in our countryside, but we want them to die here too.

At present, they are being shipped to various countries in Europe, where they are then tagged as being the product of that country.

The trade is operated by a Dutch national, the animals are transported by Dutch hauliers, who use our roads for free, and the British economy gains nothing from the trade.

If the sheep were killed in this country the animals would not have to suffer a long and stressful journey before slaughter. More jobs would be created for British workers (eg. British truck drivers, abattoir workers, butchers etc.).

The carcasses would then be stamped as British before being exported, giving due credit to British farmers for a quality product.

Miriam Smith, by email

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Fallon issues blunt warning to banks: 'I'm coming for you'

By Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

THE atmosphere was wholly convivial at the breakfast reception organised by the Sevenoaks Town Partnership, but main speaker and local MP Michael Fallon had some harsh words for the country's banks.

Mr Fallon, the Conservative MP for Sevenoaks, who has recently been appointed Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, was responding to a question from this newspaper about how he would force the country's high-street banks to use the money that had been made available to them to promote economic growth.

There has been widespread revulsion at the manner in which Government money – or, to be precise, taxpayers' money – has been channelled into huge bonuses and the hoarding of excessive reserves rather than into lending to businesses at affordable rates.

Mr Fallon said: "I have warned the major high-street banks that if they don't improve their performance I will publish their lending dealings bank by bank.

"They all tell you a different story – it's always someone else. What I will do if it doesn't improve is name and shame the poorest-performing banks.

"I'm absolutely determined to get the money that has been made available to them to small businesses – the taxpayer has been providing this money."

One man who will be delighted with such a firm approach is Roger House, chairman of the Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, who, in a blistering attack this summer, told us: "Millions of pounds has been made available to them [the banks] and money that could have been used to stimulate growth in the economy has gone into bonuses.

"The way these national institutions has behaved is, frankly, frightening."

Back at the business reception, held at the Stag Community Arts Centre on Friday last week, the plaudits for Mr Fallon flowed.

Host and Sevenoaks town mayor Richard Parry told delegates that the Government's current Business Secretary should be wary of a rising star.

"Watch out, Vince Cable, here comes a rival!" he said.

Speaking for the Sevenoaks business community, he continued in a similarly enthusiastic vein: "We are blessed to have such an entrepreneurial MP."

Roddy Hogarth, who holds the portfolio for economic development and partnerships at Sevenoaks District Council, believed that Mr Fallon's promotion would be only good news for the area.



STRONG WORDS: MP Michael Fallon

"We'll be playing on a more level playing field," he said. "The region has not always been at the head of the queue. It has been perceived as affluent and successful, which is correct, but there are things that could be improved.

"We could do more for Swanley, for example, while there are many businesses in rural areas that would benefit from enhanced broadband."

Delegates paid £10 to be at the event, with the money going to the mayor's chosen charities, Riding For The Disabled Sevenoaks and Age UK Sevenoaks.

Fledgling company set up by ex-Pfizer staff seals £3.8 million research deal to secure its first year

A BIOTECH firm set up by four ex-Pfizer researchers has received a multi-million-pound cash boost just months after launching, **writes Marijke Cox**.

Canterbury-based Ziarco, which specialises in research for anti-inflammatory and anti-allergy medicines, announced a £3.8 million research deal with Pfizer Venture Investments and US group Biotechnology Value Fund LP.

President and chief executive of Ziarco, Dr Mike Yeadon, who was former vice-president and chief scientific officer of Pfizer's alert and respiratory research unit, founded the new company with three other ex-Pfizer employees: Steve Liu, who will serve as chief scientist; Lynn Purkins, who leads clinical development; and Arif Shivji, head of business development and development operations.

Dr Yeadon said the company was "very fortunate" to have secured the deal at such an early stage.

"This deal demonstrates the strength of British science," he said.

"The £3.8m is the initial transaction in what is a £16-17m fund in total. This will provide us with the funding for in excess of one year's operation."



HANDS ON: Biotech firm Ziarco has secured funds that should ensure its research into anti-inflammatory and anti-allergy drugs for more than one year

The agreement will focus on developing new and improved anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic medicines.

According to Ziarco, this research could lead to new methods of treating several major diseases, including asthma, allergic rhinitis, pain and a variety of inflammatory skin conditions.

Dr Yeadon was among hundreds of staff made redundant after Pfizer downsized at the Sandwich site.

"I can only speak for myself and I'm sure for many it was a very upsetting time, but I found it an extremely exciting opportunity," he said.

Dr Yeadon and his three colleagues looked at setting up the new company, but it wasn't until this year that it was formally launched.

"Not only are we very fortunate at such an early stage in the company's development to have licensed significant assets from Pfizer and secured funding from BVF and Pfizer Venture Investments to progress development of these innovative therapeutic agents, but we have in place a highly-experienced team which has deep knowledge of these programmes and has the passion and expertise to deliver," he said.

Dr Yeadon said that, while it was unlikely the company would become big quickly, it was possible more staff would be taken on in the future.

"We're already using some of the rich source of local expertise, such as a firm which is making sure our IT is in place," he said. "So while we're not actually employing new staff at the moment, we are helping by supporting other small businesses.

"Because we're new to running our own small company, we'd love to hear from anyone locally who can help a young business be successful.

"We would welcome and value advice and contributions."

Barbara Dalton, vice-president at venture capital at Pfizer, said the drugs giant was delighted to support the growth of the company.

BVF president Mark Lampert said: "The programmes have the potential to provide new, compelling and differentiated therapeutics to patients with debilitating diseases. It is a privilege to be associated with Ziarco."

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Hi-tech firm picks up small matter of physics award



TOPS: Naneum receives the award

CANTERBURY Innovation Centre is celebrating the accomplishments of tenant company Naneum, which won the prestigious Innovation Award from the Institute of Physics.

The award was in recognition of an instrument that Naneum had developed called a nanoparticle spectrometer.

The device was developed to meet the requirements of the science community for a portable, high-resolution sizing instrument for extremely small particles of matter.

It allows tiny nanoparticle size distributions in the air to be measured quickly and easily and is of crucial benefit to researchers in environmental monitoring and occupational health.

Dr Robert Muir, managing director of Naneum, said: "This award is a great motivation for our young researchers, giving them wide recognition for their groundbreaking work. We hope to build on this achievement to gain greater exposure for our products."

Canterbury Innovation Centre, a business centre that focuses on high-technology businesses, welcomed Naneum as its first tenant company when it opened in November 2009.

Centre manager Jo Clark said: "Naneum is exactly the type of company the Canterbury Innovation Centre was designed to attract.

"IT is working in the highly-technical field of nanotechnology, is a perfect example of a company graduating from the university's incubator to the innovation centre and has helped the region to retain bright young talent coming out of the university rather than losing them to other counties or even countries."

Incoming chairman has right grounding for fellow civil engineers to follow

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CIVIL engineers in Kent have a new chairman after their recent annual general meeting held at Wrotham Heath.

Rob James, who works for infrastructure provider Amey, has been elected to chair the Institution of Civil Engineers (Ice) Kent and East Sussex branch for the next year.

The director of Ice South East England, John Laverty, said: "The Ice South East England's Kent and East Sussex branch is very active on behalf of the 2,000 members we have in those counties, so having a strong chairman is essential.

"Rob James fulfils that role perfectly. He has been involved in the Ice since 2006 and is a former chair of the Kent and East Sussex Ice graduate and student committee as well as having served on the branch committee for the past three years.

"In his professional life he is a principal civil engineer at Amey, where he leads their airport infrastructure team.

"Rob has worked in civil engineering for 15 years, delivering multi-million-pound airport and highway infrastructure projects, including the 2009 Thomas Brassey award-winning A2 Pepperhill to Cobham widening.

"Ice South East England is looking forward to working with him over the next 12 months and is confident he will help promote and develop the work of civil engineers in the county."

James said: "Next year will see the South East Local Enterprise Partnership launch the Local Transport Board and a consultation on the Third Lower Thames Crossing, as well as the ongoing discussions regarding aviation capacity.

"Add these major projects to the continuing work such as the Highway's Agency pinchpoint investment programme and schemes being developed by local authorities and energy, transport, water and waste companies and it is clear there is a lot happening which will involve civil engineers.

"We know that investing in infrastructure not only creates jobs now but brings benefits for the economy for a long time in the future, too, so getting these projects right is essential to get the maximum benefit from such investment."



NEW MAN: Branch officer Elaine Lawford welcomes Rob James to his new role as chairman of Ice

PROGRAMME

Small businesses centre of attention in new competition

THE Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and credit-card payment company Streamline have launched a new business-awards programme to promote and celebrate innovation and success among small businesses in Kent.

The FSB Streamline UK Business Awards will also run across another 11 geographical areas around the UK, with area finalists selected to go through to a national final in April 2013.

The Kent and Medway awards are open and businesses are being invited to nominate themselves in four categories:

- Business Innovation
- Online Business of the Year
- Micro Business of the Year
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Four businesses (one for each category) will be selected by a panel of independent judges, and one will be selected as winner and receive a cash prize of £500.

The winner, along with the remaining category finalists, will be entered into the national final for their category, with £4,500 up for grabs for each national category-winner.

The judges will then select one overall business as winner of the FSB Streamline UK Business of the Year Award. The winner of this award will receive an additional £5,000 and a business-consultancy package worth a further £5,000 to help them to grow their business.

The Business Innovation and Online Business of the Year awards are open to any UK-registered businesses employing 250 people or fewer, while the Micro Business of the Year award is open to any business employing 10 employees or fewer.

The Young Entrepreneur of the Year award is open to anyone aged 30 or under on Monday, December 31, 2012.

Full details of the entry criteria and how to enter are available at www.fsbstreamlineawards.co.uk/. The closing date for entries is December 31.

The awards have been designed by the FSB and Streamline to raise the profile of small businesses across the UK and to highlight the crucial role they are playing in kick-starting and supporting the UK economy.

Andrew Aves, FSB development manager for Kent and Medway, said: "As with everything we do, these awards are designed to promote the interests of small businesses and entrepreneurs all over the UK.

"We are really looking forward to using this awards programme as an opportunity to identify and engage with some of the most innovative and successful small business in the UK."

RELOCATION

Specialist company is pleased to make move

ONE of the UK's most advanced fibre-optic specialist companies, Phoenix Photonics, has relocated to Sarre Business Centre in the next phase of its strategic growth plan.

Phoenix Photonics, previously based in south London, develops specialist fibre-optic components and instruments for future broadband internet deployment in the global telecommunications market, and has relocated to premises just outside Canterbury.

"The move is a key milestone in our growth strategy, which we initiated three years ago, and we are very pleased we are embarking on this phase of the plan," said CEO Dr Ian Giles.

Training, courses and careers

Bright idea to help future electricians test the road ahead

BRIGHT sparks have been given a major opportunity to boost their employability as electricians.

Learning can be greatly accelerated by using real world scenarios in most fields, and MidKent College has devised a new business venture to provide the would-be sparkies with just that.

MKC Aspire Ltd is a division of the college and was set up to enhance the learning experience of students with several new projects - including teaching students how to conduct portable appliance tests (PATs).

And after five weeks of training, students will be paid to carry out PATs across the college's campuses in Medway and Maidstone.

Simon Foot, head of faculty for construction and engineering, said: "Part of our commitment to prepare students for the working world is to provide them with real life opportunities such as this.

"It's great for them because they gain invaluable experience carrying out PATs, while the college also benefits by not having to bring in external companies to carry out the work."

Lecturer Tony Marsh said they will soon be qualified to test televisions, computers and any other electrical appliances found in the workplace. He added: "It's a recognisable skill and a qualification that is convertible to cash.

"It will be invaluable for the students when they are seeking employment because it will give them an edge over other applicants."



FUTURE: STSA managing director, Rupert Prutton

Alliance shows the way ahead for new breed of teachers

THE hunt is on for the next generation of top teachers, as an alliance of schools across north Kent calls on fresh applications from university leavers and those seeking a career change.

Launched in September, the Swale Teaching School Alliance (STSA) brings together schools to work in partnership for the benefit of students across the borough.

The alliance was developed from Fulston Manor's designation as a teaching school earlier in the year.

Secondary school strategic partners include The Abbey School, Faversham, the Isle of Sheppey Academy, Highsted and Borden grammar schools in Sittingbourne and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham.

At a primary level, Minterne Community in Sittingbourne; Queenborough and St Edward's schools on Sheppey; and Bobbing, Iwade, St Peters, Newington and Lower Halstow schools in Sittingbourne, help guide the alliance to meet the needs of local schools.

The STSA works alongside the Department for Education and Canterbury Christ Church University to recruit and train teachers across the alliance schools, for both primary and secondary education, under the governement's new Schools Direct programme.

Rupert Prutton, managing director of the STSA, said: "It is very exciting times in education in Swale at the moment.

"The opportunities for partnership work are fantastic and have the scope to benefit every child across the borough."

This programme not only attracts generous government funding for trainees, but gives a training experience that will give both university leavers and those with post degree experience the platform for a progressive teaching career.

Applications are now being sought for future teachers. For more details, and in particular teacher training opportunities, visit www.stsa.org.uk or email info@stsa.org.uk.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000 .

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Swale Teaching School Alliance

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For further details please contact Recruitment and Training Officer Amanda Andrews on 01795 597454

Swale Academies Trust

School Based Initial Teacher Training

Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Westlands Primary School and Regis Manor Primary School

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, has vacancies for graduates who wish to undertake the School Direct Training Programme. Applications are invited from high quality graduates. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary. (Full details of the programme and eligibility can be obtained from the Teaching Agency http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/school-based-training/school-direct).

Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity. For salaried positions, a competitive salary is offered of between £15,817 and £19,497 per annum, dependent on qualifications, subject area and experience. For training places, a tax free bursary of up to £20,000 may be available.

Salaried:	**Training:**
English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science (Chemistry)	Science (Chemistry)
Geography	Business Studies
History	Design Technology
Modern Foreign Languages	Geography
PE	Health and Social Care
Primary	

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

For preliminary enquiries, you are welcome to contact the Staff Development Leader, Miss Elizabeth Frost at the lead training school, (Westlands School), e mail **swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk.**

Westlands School is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted.

Application must be made via the Teaching Agency website, details as above.

Closing date: **Wednesday 28 November 2012**

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. These posts are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details: Westlands School, Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF. Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461. www.westlands.org.uk. Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732.
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

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- Follow link through schools direct page to the DfE website link
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- At "find a school direct place" click on school name and enter Sandgate
- Both primary and secondary applicants will need to follow this route

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01303 817056

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Psychology — ***Ref: SESS***

Hourly Rate: £23.44 - £27.22 per hour
Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Psychology lecturer to join our Access to Higher Education team. They will need to have experience of teaching Psychology, preferably to adult learners. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.
Closing date: 12 noon, Thursday 29 November 2012

Apprentice in Facilities (Customer Services) — ***Ref: APPFAC***

Full time, one year contract
Medway Campus

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in a stimulating environment. Successful candidates will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level whilst receiving training and working in the Facilities and Reception department.
Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.
Closing date: midday on Thursday 29 November 2012

Construction and Engineering Faculty Administrator, full time, maternity cover — ***Ref: M0752***

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

We are looking to appoint a confident individual to provide administration support for the Construction and Engineering Faculty team at our Maidstone Campus. The successful candidate will have good organisational/administrative skills and have experience working within an office environment. Previous experience of working within education would be an advantage.
Closing date: Thursday 29 November 2012, 12 noon

Lecturer in Motor Vehicle — ***Ref: P0605***

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time, Medway

We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working within the FE sector to deliver Motor Vehicle in the new training facilities at our Medway Campus. The post will require an effective team player who is innovative and flexible to respond to the demands of the curriculum. You will have at least a Level 3 qualification or equivalent in Automotive Engineering and a relevant teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to the required national standards. Level 2 English and Mathematics qualifications are essential as is a commitment to student success. Recent experience of teaching young people from Entry 3 to Level 2 would be an advantage.
Closing date - Thursday 29 November 2012, 12 noon

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PUBLIC INQUIRY

At Oakwood House Hotel, Oakwood Park, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8AE

On Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 10.00

REASON FOR INQUIRY

Called-in planning application for a proposed westerly extension to **Hermitage Quarry, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9NT** submitted by Gallagher Aggregates Ltd to Kent County Council (Ref: TM/10/2029)

An Inspector instructed by the Secretary of State will attend at the place, date and time shown above to hold a local inquiry.

Members of the public may attend the inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views. If you, or anyone you know, has a disability and is concerned about facilities at the inquiry venue, you should contact the council to confirm that suitable provisions are in place. Documents relating to the appeal can be viewed at the Council's offices by prior arrangement or online at: http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/planning_applications/latest_news.aspx

Planning Inspectorate Reference:
APP/W2275/V/11/2158341

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate: **Helen Skinner, 3/02 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN Tel: 0303 44 5531**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/MA/0344/2012 - Proposed development at Unit 6, 13 and 14, Detling Airfield Industrial Estate, Detling, Maidstone, ME14 3HQ.

Waste Tech Recycling is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for relocation of waste treatment building, revised site layout and storage of inert and semi inert waste. Change of use of units 13 and 14 to allow the acceptance, treatment and storage of waste.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

KCC/SH/0333/2012 - Proposed development at Unit 1, Park Farm Close, Park Farm Industrial Estate, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5DU.

Johnson's Recycling Ltd is appying to Kent County Council for planning permission for retrospective change of use from a vehicle crash repair site to a metal recycling facility and parking of two skip hire delivery lorries.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 18 November 2012

Kent County Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 03 DECEMBER 2012

SW/12/1107 &
SW/12/1108:
Alterations to Listed Building including insertion of new windows and stud partitions; new entrance doors and conservatory and construction of detached garage building - Culnells Farm, School Lane, IWADE; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1168 &
SW/12/1171:
Replacement sash to timber box sash windows & replacement timber front door - 28 Nightingale Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1172:
Redevelopment of disused grazing paddock to form a housing estate with 14 dwellings - The Paddock, Land adj to Scocles Court, Scocles Road, MINSTER; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/12/1198:
Proposed single storey extension. Proposed bedroom in existing roof space. Proposed garage block with storage over - 195 Bull Lane, NEWINGTON; **REASON 4**

SW/12/1201:
Extension to rear elevation including roof extension over existing extension - 28 Nightingale Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1291:
Two storey side extension, basement alterations - 116 London Road, TEYNHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1301:
Revised proposals for the creation of a new access and outbuilding at Green Farmhouse - Green Farm, Stalisfield Green, STALISFIELD; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1336:
Erection of a single storey side extension with accommodation in the roof void to enhance the existing accommodation and provision of accommodation within the main building roof void - 5 Travers Gardens, BREDGAR; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1370:
Replacement of softwood windows with PVCU windows in church hall and vestries - The Methodist Church, High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1378:
Removal of 6 antenna and their replacement with 3, at the same height and the installation of 1 x 600mm dish. The removal of 1 and the installation of 3 equipment cabinets in the compound - Mast at Gibbens Farm, BREDGAR; **REASON 6**

SW/12/1397:
Development of 9 detached dwellings arranged around a green - Land adj 9/11 Ashford Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1, 2, 5 & 6**

SW/12/1401:
Change of use to part of existing transport depot to hand car wash - no building works - Transport Depot, Standard Quay, Abbey Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1408:
Replacement white timber windows on the rear elevation of the property at first floor level - 6a Court Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0985/SH - 39 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JL - Erection of a single storey side extension following demolition of the existing conservatory; provision of a new roof and flue incorporating a minor increase in roof height, over the existing rear extension; erection of a single storey side extension; and engineering works to create an off-street parking space and ramp access to the rear garden.

Y12/0994/SH - 5 Ship Close Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0LH - Change of use from restaurant (Class A3) to self contained holiday let accommodation (Class C3).

Y12/0987/SH - Pavement at junction of Bouverie Road West and Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/1003/SH+ - Homepeak House Bartholomew Street Hythe Kent CT21 5BB - Re-pollarding back to previous points of two Lime trees situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0913/SH - Public Conveniences Granville Parade Sandgate Kent - Part change of use and conversion of existing public conveniences to a kiosk together with external alterations.

Y12/1001/SH# - Land 1085 Metres south west Lydd Flying Club Site Midley Wall Old Romney Kent - Erection of one 60 m high wind monitoring mast (mast structure comprising 150 mm thick steel tubes supported by stabilising cables) with associated meteorological instruments for a temporary period not exceeding 24 months.

Y12/1000/SH - 72 Cheriton High Street Folkestone Kent CT19 4HF - Erection of 12 terrace dwellings with associated parking and landscaping following demolition of existing buildings

Y12/1011/SH - 1 Sycamore Cottages Lions Road New Romney Kent TN28 8DF - Felling of two Leyland Cypress trees situated within a conservation area.

Y12/1006/SH - Broadview Old Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of retaining walls and steps to provide alteration to access and formation of a parking lay by.

Y12/1012/SH+ - Springfield Dental Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LH - Reduction in height by a minimum of one third of a mixed hedgerow together with the cutting back of encroachment to footpath and adjoining properties, and the reduction in height by one third of a Hazel hedge, both situated within a conservation area.

Y12/1019/SH - Wise Follies The Square Elham Canterbury Kent - Crown reduction of a Silver Birch and rebalance and shape of a group of Yew trees, all situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0992/SH - 45 The Street Hawkinge Folkestone Kent CT18 7DD - Listed building consent for demolition of existing internal walls and porch to front (south) elevation and provision of new ensuite bathroom.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0901/N - 8 - 9, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Application for change of use and external alterations to 8 and 9 The Square to facilitate change of use of 8 & 9 The Square into 2 separate dwellings, including erection of pitched roof to rear including closing of gap between buildings to the rear at 2nd floor level, removal of single storey rear extension and external staircase, alterations to fenestration, installation of railings, restoration of external surfaces and tile hanging to first floor front elevation and structural repair of front elevation with associated works as shown on site location plan and drawing nos. 101, 103, 105, 107, 108, 109, 111, and 112 received 15/05/12, Design & Access Statement and drawing no. 113 received 30/05/12, Statement of Significance received 10/09/12, additional Statement of Significance and drawing nos. 104A and 106A received 11/10/12 and drawing nos. 102A and 110A received 31/10/12. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/12/1019/N - 8 - 9, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Listed building consent for internal and external alterations to 8 and 9 The Square to facilitate change of use of 8 & 9 The Square into 2 separate dwellings, including erection of pitched roof to rear including closing of gap between buildings to the rear at 2nd floor level, removal of single storey rear extension and external staircase, alterations to fenestration, installation of railings, restoration of external surfaces, erection of internal party walls, installation of internal stairway, tile hanging to first floor front elevation and structural repair of front elevation with associated works as shown on site location plan and drawing nos. 101, 103, 105, 107, 108, 109, 111, and 112 received 15/05/12, Design & Access Statement and drawing no. 113 received 30/05/12, Statement of Significance received 10/09/12, additional Statement of Significance and drawing nos. 104A and 106A received 11/10/12 and drawing nos. 102A and 110A received 31/10/12. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1901/S - 8, CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NP - Erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/12/1907/S - TEAPOT ISLAND TWYFORD BRIDGE, HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HG - Single storey extension to north east elevation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1912/N - BICKNOR OAST COTTAGE, BICKNOR LANE, BICKNOR, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 8AX - S73 application to remove conditions 2,3,6,7 and 8 of planning permission MA/02/0854 (erection of one 2 bedroom dwelling and change of use of agricultural land to extend garden area) and to grant planning permission for the dwelling as erected and completed without formal discharge of details of materials, landscaping, fencing/walling, disposal of sewage and remediation of contamination in accordance with drawings DHA/9427/01, DHA/9427/02, Geo-Environmental Reported dated April 2005 and Closure Report dated 17 October 2011 and Environment Agency Consent to Discharge dated 3 October 2006. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1929/S - ELMSCROFT HOUSE, CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NY - An application for listed building consent for installation of a new biomass boiler room within an existing garage and workshop building. Replacement of existing asbestos roof with new roofing system with two new stainless steel flues projecting through the roof. Reworking of the basement boiler room within Elmscroft house. Installing a new underground district main between the new boiler room and the existing basement boiler room within the grade II listed main house. New radiator valves to central heating system and increased mineral quilt insulation to loft areas of main building. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 -Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 -Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 -Application is for Listed Building Consent.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **2nd December 2012** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 18th November 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03031/HOUSE 29 Kentish Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- PVCu conservatory at side (CA)

12/03040/HOUSE Brook House The Tanyard, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Single storey side extension (CA)

12/02986/HOUSE 4 Court Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Two new sash windows to gables, two new velux windows and two solar panels to front elevation. Two new proposed dormer windows to rear elevation. New timber sah windows to replace existing aluminium windows. Internal refurbishment and loft conversion (CA)

12/03069/FUL 9 Grosvenor Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Change of use from A1 retail to A2 betting office (CA)

12/03028/HOUSE Gills Green Barn Wellington Road, Hawkhurst
- Detached garage and log store (LB)

12/03048/HOUSE Dunnocks Western Road, Hawkhurst
- Extension and alterations to dwelling (LB)(CA)

12/03019/HOUSE Sandhole Cottage Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Two storey extension to north east elevation and associated alterations (LB)

12/03020/LBC Sandhole Cottage Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: Two storey extension to north east elevation and associated alterations (LB)

12/03022/HOUSE 3 Wharf Cottages Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Dormer and roof extension, with conservation rooflight, to front elevation (LB)

12/02957/LBC 4 Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent - Satellite dish (works already completed) (LB)

12/02945/HOUSE Saxon House Pembury Road, Park
- Rear two storey and rear single storey extensions, replacement of attached garage, removal of existing single storey projecting section of workshop, replacement front door and sidelights, new sliding bi-fold doors to south east elevation and 3 No. new rooflights (CA)

12/03078/FULMJ AXA PPP Healthcare Limited International House, Park
- Demolition of link-detached single storey building. Erection of a 3 storey linked extension to side (north) elevation of the main building to create additional office floor space and the erection of a single storey building to the rear to create decked car parking spaces, with the addition of car parking spaces and landscaping (CA)(MAJOR)

12/03084/FUL Garden Cottage And Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park
- Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings (CA)

12/03085/CAC Garden Cottage And Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of dwelling (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 17 November 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Maidstone Borough Council

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 that Maidstone Borough Council proposes to dispose of the leasehold interest in approximately 1970 sq. metres of land at Penenden Heath Open Space to Penenden Heath Bowls Club. This will enable the club to take over the management of the bowling green and surrounding area.

Further details of this disposal may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ; where the plan can be inspected during normal office hours.

Objections to this proposal should be sent in writing to the Assistant Director of Environment & Regulatory Services at the above address, no later than Monday 24 December 2012.

Steve Goulette
Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services
Friday 2 November 2012

MAIDSTONE Borough Council



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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01815/ADV: The Fountain, 29 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HW Retention of internally illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: Mr T Slade** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01870/FUL: The Prince Albert, Sea Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AN Painting the existing brickwork. **Applicant: Punch Taverns** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01919/FUL: The Unicorn, Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, CT4 5ED Change of use of ground floor from Use Class A4 (Drinking establishment) to Use Class C3 (Residential) **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Short** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01934/ADV: 43-45 St George's Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UP Erection of two fascia signs **Applicant: Odeon Cinemas Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01937/FUL: 20 Beverley Road, Canterbury, CT2 7EN Increase of height of rear mono-pitch roof to accommodate double doors. **Applicant: Mr Palmer** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01939/FUL: Newspaper House, 29 Simmonds Road, Canterbury, CT1 3YR Use of land for stationing of modular office buildings and associated works. **Applicant: The City Church** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01945/FUL: 1 Highstead Farm Cottages, Highstead, Chislet, CT3 4LX Replacement conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Inglis** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01955/FUL: Corner of Church Street and A2990 (Old Thanet Way), Whitstable Erection of two detached bungalows with access driveways and garages. **Applicant: Mr Smith** Reason: Contrary to the development plan.
CA//12/01956/FUL: 74 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JQ Proposed single-storey rear extension, loft conversion and internal alterations. **Applicant: Mr Lister and Ms Dodds** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01958/ADV: 60-62 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BB One externallly illuminated fascia sign and one non-illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: Harris + Hoole Baristas Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01960/FUL: Romany View, Hatch Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LP Construction of a pole barn. **Applicant: Mr J Barton** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01968/FUL: 23 Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4LT Replacement UPVC conservatory and alterations to rear balcony door. **Applicant: Professor and Mrs Beaton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01982/TPO: The Nest, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Reduce branch spread of two Oak trees subject of TPO No 2 of 1968 and install root barrier **Applicant: MWA Arboriculture** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01994/FUL: 2 Albion Place, Canterbury, CT1 1LH Removal of metal windows and timber subframes and replacement with uPVC double-glazed windows. **Applicant: Mrs H Barnard** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01995/FUL: The Whitstable Launderette, 2-4 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Installation of solar panels on flat roof rear of Whitstable Launderette. **Applicant: Mr Wood** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02002/ADV: Aldi Stores Ltd, St Andrews Close, Canterbury, CT1 2RL Three adverts; one internally-illuminated facade sign and two graphic vinyls on glazing **Applicant: Aldi Stores Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 10 December 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 16 November 2012

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, New Romney**
Applicant: **Daniel Martin**
Name of Premises: **Foster House, Clubbs Lane, Brookland, Romney Marsh**
Applicant: **David Coote**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Winters Barns, Nackington Road, Canterbury**
Applicant: **David Jackson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that

Arasaratnam Jeevaratnam of 55 Woodfield Avenue Gravesend Kent DA11 7QQ

has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for a new Premises Licence for an off licence

Proposed Hours for sale of alcohol are
Monday to Sunday 7am until 23:00

for the premises **Trokes News of 62 - 64 Singlewell Road Gravesend DA11 7PW**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 10th December 2012

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. **Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.**

NEO & CO (UK)LIMITED
(Company No.07677090)
In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, on 23 November 2012, at 11.45 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Peter George Byatt of LB Insolvency, Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, is qualified to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to the above and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as is reasonably required. Further details contact: Mr P G Byatt (IP No. 8277), Tel: 01245 254791, email: info@lbinsolvency.co.uk

Mrs C Kempster, Director

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PROW - IN THE AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB351

IN THE PARISH OF LOWER HARDRES

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB351 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14 (1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway CB351 between it's junction with Public Footpath CB307 and Public Bridleway CB352 (NGR TR 162 537) and Bridge Road from the 6th December 2012 The route will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via CB307, CB309 and Bridge Road.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB9

IN THE PARISH OF MAIDSTONE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB9 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath KB9, between Sandy Lane and Sittingbourne Road from the 12th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 12th January 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Sittingbourne Road, Penenden Heath Road and Sandy Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

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NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY KH135

IN THE PARISH OF THURNHAM

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY KH135 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Bridleway KH135, between Roundwell and Chrismill Road (Public Bridleway KH134) from the 12th November 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 12 December 2012.

The route is closed because works are planned on or near it.

The alternative route is via the A20 and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH HM222 AT DYMCHURCH & BURMARSH) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 30th October 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Footpath which commences on the A259 in the parish of Dymchurch at NGR TR1275 3191 (point A on the Order plan) through a gap at the side of a 4-metre wide gate, and runs in a north-north-easterly direction for 1404 metres to its connection with Botolphs Bridge Road (C414) in the parish of Burmarsh at NGR TR 1215 3317 (point C on the Order plan). The path crosses the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Light Railway line at grade at NGR TR 1237 3279. (Between the points A-B-C). The path has an initial width of 0.96 metre via a gap at the side of a 4-metre wide gate; it then opens out to 4.0 metres until the end of Brockman Crescent; the remainder of the path is 5.0 metres wide.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Shepway District Council, The Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to MRS MARIA McLAUCHLAN at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 31st December 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR92

IN THE PARISH OF IWADE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR92, IWADE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZR92 between 32 and 34 Springvale, Iwade and 48 and 50 Sheerstone, Iwade from the 3rd December 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 22nd February 2013.

The path will be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via an alleyway, between 50 and 48a,b and c Sheerstone and opposite 43 Springvale and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 18th November 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

(SCHOOL ROAD, HOTHFIELD, DISTRICT OF ASHFORD) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the Local Traffic Authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 intends to make the above named Order:

AREA ON ROAD DESIGNATED AS DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACE

That part of **SCHOOL ROAD** which is bounded on the eastern edge of the carriageway of that highway which extends from a point 2.20 metres southwest of the common boundary of Houses No.20 and No.22 for a distance of 6.15 metres in a north-easterly direction and which has a width throughout of 2.40 metres.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Kent Highway offices, Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 10th December 2012.

SPOT HOUSE LANE, WOODCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING, CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To avoid danger to the public, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting all use of Spot House Lane, Woodchurch, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 18 months pending a decision on future use.

This applies to the unsealed, unclassified road from the junction with Place Lane eastwards to the junction with the eastern end of Coldblow.

The closure applies to all vehicles, cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians.

The alternative route is via Shadoxhurst Road and Coldblow (Lane).

VARIOUS ROADS, BRABOURNE & SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to ongoing works for the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on certain roads in Brabourne and Smeeth, on or after 5 December 2012, as shown below.

GRANARY COURT ROAD, SMEETH will be closed from 5th December 2012 for up to 7 weeks, although re-opening over Christmas, between 21 December 2012 and 6 January 2013

The closure is between Plain Road and Pound Lane.

The alternative route is via Plain Road and Pound Lane.

POUND LANE, BRABOURNE will be closed from 6th December 2012 for up to 7 weeks, although re-opening between 21 December 2012 and 6 January 2013

The closure is between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Granary Court Road.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Plain Road and Pound Lane (Pound House Road).

PLAIN ROAD, SMEETH will be closed from 7th December from 4.00 pm until 10th December at 6.00 am

The closure is between the junctions with Cooper's Lane and Granary Court Road.

The alternative route is via Stone Hill, A20 Hythe Road, Church Road, Woolpack Hill and Plain Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

B2205 CANTERBURY ROAD TO A299 THANET WAY ON-SLIP, HERNE BAY (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the installation of a new surface water sewer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the coast bound on-slip linking the B2205 Canterbury Road with the A299 Thanet Way, Herne Bay.

The section of road affected is from the existing National Speed Limit Sign on the slip road to a point approximately 80 metres south west of where the slip road meets the main coast bound carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way.

This Order takes effect on or after 19 November 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks, and applies on weekdays only, when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

FENOULHET WAY, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and footway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fenoulhet Way, Herne Bay, on or after 4 December 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Victoria Park, Canterbury Road and High Street.

There will be no waiting at any time on Fenoulhet Way during these works, which includes the designated parking spaces, which will be suspended.

GRAVEL CASTLE ROAD, BARHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the one-way section of Gravel Castle Road, Barham from Monday 19 November 2012 for up to 5 days.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Alpine Cottage, with no through access along the one-way section between Church Lane and Brickfield Road.

The alternative routes for through traffic are:

For light vehicles via Church Lane, The Street, Valley Road and Brickfield Road.

For HGVs via the A2 Canterbury-bound to Bonny Bush Hill and Valley Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Gravel Castle Road will be suspended to allow access from either direction up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

SANDY LANE, SOUTHFLEET, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT safe access for provision of new telegraph pole for new customer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandy Lane, Southfleet, Dartford, on or after 5th December 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Claywood Lane for a distance of 200 metres. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Betsham Road, Unamed Road, School Lane.

HIGHWAYS - DEAL AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGH STREET, DEAL) (PROHIBITION OF ENTRY) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections l, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part lV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Introduce a 'No Entry' junction which would prohibit any vehicle proceeding in a southerly direction on The High Street in Deal, south of its junction with King Street.

This will be for improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

A copy of the proposed Order together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to Tony Jenson, Kent County Council Highways, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk by not later than 9th December 2012.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

RATLING ROAD, AYLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable access to ducting in the carriageway for a new phone service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ratling Road, Aylesham, on or after 25 November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Burgess Road and Ackholt Road.

The alternative route is via Burgess Road, Bell Grove and Ackholt Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) (RUSSELL STREET, DOVER) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief office of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces experimentally no right turns from Russell Street, Dover onto the A20 Townwall Street Dover.

This Order will come into force on 19 November 2012.

The Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of this experimental Order should continue in force indefinitely.

Any alterations to this Order which will render it less restrictive may be authorised by the County Traffic Schemes Manager, without the requirement to re-advertise the Order under section 10 (2) of the said Act and after consultation with the chief officer of police.

Full details are contained in the Order which together with the relevant plans and a statement for the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover.

Within the period of 18 months of the coming into force of the Experimental Traffic Order any person may object to this Order prior to making the Order permanent. If you wish to object to the Experimental Order you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Traffic Schemes Team, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD or by e mail to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

HAWKINS AVENUE/CHRISTIAN FIELDS AVENUE GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of resurfacing works Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawkins Avenue/Christian Fields Avenue, Gravesend, on or after 3rd December 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with junction of Hawkins Avenue and Christian Fields Avenue.

The alternative route is via Palmer Avenue and Warrior Avenue all routes are 20mph no height/width or weight restrictions apply .

NEWLANDS LANE CULVERSTONE , MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new gas service to be installed , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newlands Lane Culverstone, Meopham on or after 3rd December 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Newland Farm.

The alternative route is via White Post Lane and Wrotham Road

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of RSM inspection and changing rails, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hampstead Lane, Yalding, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 2 nights between 22.00hrs and 05.30hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Yalding Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road, A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road, Beltring Road, Gravelly Ways, Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane.

SHERENDEN LANE, MARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to enable the installation of a piped crossing to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sherenden Lane, Marden, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed near Sherenden Farmhouse.

The alternative route is via B2079 Goudhurst Road, Curtisden Green Lane, Wilden Park Road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

COWDEN POUND LANE, EDENBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works for cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cowden Pound Lane, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 5th December 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Hartfield Road for a distance of 700 metres and there will be no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via Hartfield Road, Station Road, Blowers Hill, Cow Lane, Cowden Pound Lane and Vice Versa.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

PROSPECT ROAD, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Prospect Road, Hythe, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Please note this is the one-way road parallel with the main A259 Prospect Road.

The one-way section of the road will be closed between the junction with Theatre Street and the eastern entrance to the car park.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended between the A259 Prospect Road and the western entrance to the car park, to allow access.

The alternative route is via A259 Prospect Road and Prospect Road.

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on Prospect Road during these works.

STADE STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stade Street, Hythe, on or after 3 December 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The western section of Stade Street will be closed from the junction with Portland Road to where it meets the remainder of Stade Street (outside numbers 18-20).

The alternative route is via Portland Road and Stade Street.

The road will be re-opened over Christmas, between 24 December 2012 and 2 January 2013.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 5) ORDER 2012

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 intends to make the following Order:-

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

The Kent County Council (Various Roads, The District of Shepway)(Prohibition and Restriction of Traffic Movements) Consolidation (Amendment No 5) Order 2012.

The effect of the Order will prohibit left turns from Chapel Street into Bank Street in Hythe. This will be for improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Member Highway Fund Team, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD

or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk by noon on Sunday 9th December.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

CALLIS COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable access to ducting in the carriageway to provide a new phone service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Callis Court Road, Broadstairs, on or after 20 November 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the northern entrance to Maurice House, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Reading Street and Lanthorne Road

The alternative route is via Reading Street, Beacon Road and Grange Road.

EPPLE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Epple Road, Birchington, on or after 19 November 2012 from Monday 19th November 2012 at 22:00 hrs until Tuesday 20th November 2012 at 06:00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Epple Road, Alpha Road, Station Approach, Rossetti Road, Epple Bay Road and Cross Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 18th November 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA



Influential musicians squeeze in a tour date

SEE PAGE 45



STILL A STAR

Joan Armatrading returns with some old, some new...

SEE PAGE 49

Kent Weekend



Prince of hearts

Gareth Gates charms again in panto role

SEE PAGE 41

PLUS: Thai eatery thrives amid some stiff competition - **food and drink p43** The Green Deal and what it means for property-owners - **property p50** Jaguar XF roars into the estate zone - **driving p55**







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THE INTERVIEW

Gareth Gates

Prince Charming says his piece... loud and clear

Joe Bill meets the stammering singing sensation who won all our hearts ahead of his Sleeping Beauty appearance



IT was little more than a decade ago that a reality television show grabbed hold of UK viewers and refused to release them. Pop Idol was an early incarnation of what is now The X Factor and it was within this show that one of the most memorable reality moments – one that many would remember for years to come – would occur.

Will versus Gareth... the papers went crazy, there was voting scandal, protests and tears. It was off the back of this battle that Simon Cowell has strengthened his hold on UK primetime TV.

One half of that epic struggle was 17-year-old Gareth Gates, the boy with the voice of an angel with whom Brits fell in love as he struggled to overcome severe speech difficulties to win a record contract.

He lost out to Will Young in the Pop Idol tussle, but his courage and drive meant that producing hits soon became the norm.

But now, more than 10 years on, the Bradford lad is no longer just a pin-up star for teens – he is up in front of the real critics as he makes a career on stage in West End hit shows like Les Miserables and Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

There was tension in the air as I walked into our agreed Canterbury hotel and I was introduced not only to Gates, who stars in this winter's Marlowe Theatre panto, but also to Tok, his compatriot from the McGuire Speech Programme.

Gates told me: "We are part of the McGuire speech-therapy programme. It is an ongoing thing. It's something there's no cure for. If an athlete doesn't train, it's the same as if we don't do our breathing exercises – and we will find that affects us speech-wise."

He is also an instructor on the programme and teaches others with a stammer how to progress their speech.

The star, who is playing Prince Charming, is told to slow down by Tok as he continues.

"I have bad days. For instance, I was on Loose Women recently. I have done that show many times before, but for some reason, maybe being busy with shows, being tired, or other factors, I had a really bad interview speech-wise. That knocked my confidence, which is why having Tok around and people from the programme helps me get back to it."

In the UK alone, Gates has sold 3.5 million records, released three albums and had four UK No 1 singles. He had the Smash Hits record of the year in 2002 and the second-best-selling single of the 'Noughties' with Unchained Melody, beaten only by his old rival Will Young with the song Evergreen.

But it is his performances on stage that are now making headlines. Once he is up there, the stammer is no issue.

"Scripts and things like that are a lot easier than general conversation. I just learn the scripts, build up the confidence and then I'm fine on stage.

"For example, I'm in a show called Loserville in Leeds, so that's a really serious acting role. Speech-wise it has been a great challenge, but once I'm rehearsed I'm fine. I am in character... I am not Gareth up there."

He is excited about adding to his list of stage appearances in The Marlowe's Sleeping Beauty this Christmas.

"I love panto – it's fun. I've done Les Mis, Joseph, Loserville and am about to go into Legally Blonde with the leading lady [Faye Brookes] from this show, which will be great. But you can't really interact with the audience because it's about telling the story.

"With panto, it's just fun and I am really, really looking forward to it."

Gates has come a long way since his first live audition in front of Cowell and friends, but he's grateful for the opportunity the show gave.

"I was young. I had no real clue as to how huge it was going to be, how my life would change. I'm glad I was that young because I just enjoyed the experience.

"I don't think there has been a final show since that gripped the nation as much as the 'Will versus Gareth' thing. It has given me a great opportunity and I went on to sell millions of records, have several No 1s and live the dream."

And although he made his name through reality TV and appeared in ITV's Dancing On Ice, Gates is not ready to go back down that route just yet.

"I often get asked to go into Big Brother or the jungle. Never say never, but, I mean, the shows that I've done require you to be good at something or to learn a skill and that's what I like.

"I like the challenging aspect as opposed to just being sat in a house."

■ **Gareth Gates will appear in Sleeping Beauty at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, from Friday, November 30, to Sunday, January 20. Phone 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.**



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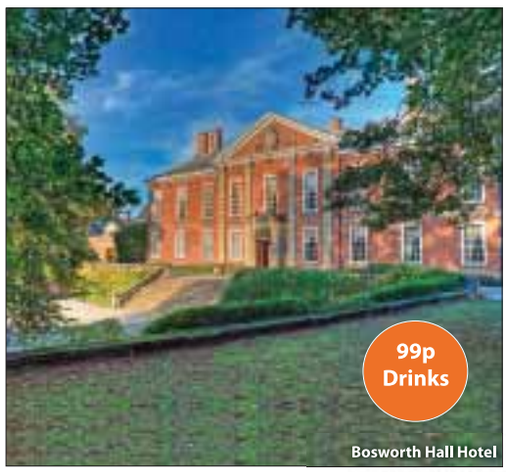
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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout

- Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet on request) - afternoon departure
- 3-night All-Inclusive cruise on the ms Princess
- Upgraded outside en suite cabin
- Entertainment
- All transfers abroad



Grand Hotel, Scarborough

Grand Burstin, Folkestone

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Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone	23 December	4	£199
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Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone	30 December	3	£179
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To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Friendly and tasty, it's easy to see why people go Thai

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

Just to maintain your spot in the busy marketplace that is the Whitstable restaurant trade is an achievement in its own right, and when you're a small family-run restaurant offering Thai food in a district of high-quality fish venues and bustling bistros, you could well be overlooked. But the Shangri La in the high street has been around for a few years now and is always talked about fondly.

And I can see why. Met at the door with the traditional Thai greeting, our waitress for the evening took our coats and showed my guest and I to one of the only free tables in the busy restaurant... not bad for a Tuesday night.

The warm restaurant is decorated with table throws and Thai paintings, while soft music plays in the background. It is a relaxing atmosphere and we were brought an imported Chang beer to start the evening.

To start, I went for a mixed platter of chicken satay, marinated in spiced coconut milk and grilled on a bamboo skewer, a black tiger-prawn wrapped in pastry and deep-fried, as well as pork and prawn blended with herbs and deep-fried on toast and a traditional spring roll.

The dish was served with dipping sauces, including spicy peanut sauce, best with the chicken, and sweet chilli for the prawns.



Each piece was a delicious light bite and not greasy, with the dipping sauces making it perfect for sharing, but a little variation from the deep-fried would be a real benefit.

Resisting the urge to go for my favourite Thai green curry, for the main course I chose the lamb panang. The dish was cooked in coconut milk, hot peppers and kaffir lime leaves. The curry was fresh and light and included roasted cashew nuts. The chillis warmed the dish significantly towards the end but to a comfortable level. You can request extra spice with each dish.

The diced lamb was tender and melted in the mouth... perfect. My guest went for the more fruity and sweet lamb mango curry, which included chunks of the fresh fruit, green cardomoms and star anise for an aniseed flavour.

For our side dishes we went for the egg-fried rice, which arrived in a pretty pot of Thai china and a pad thai dish that included rice noodles with red onion, beansprouts, spring onions and crushed cashews. The pad thai was a little overbearing in flavour and when I go again I won't choose it. The portion sizes were spot on and we were left without feeling we needed more.

The dessert menu is very basic and comprises mainly fruit and ice-creams and sorbets, so I tried my guest's coconut-and-mango concoction.

We ate three good courses, with side dishes, had a couple of drinks and came out having spent a reasonable £49.70. The service was excellent and the food good – it is actually very easy to see why the Shangri La can compete.

Joe Bill

■ **Shangri La, 102 High Street, Whitstable CT5 1AZ (telephone 01227 265800, website www.shangrila-restaurant.co.uk)**

New chef will unlock secret of the garden

THE Secret Garden restaurant at Mersham-le-Hatch has new head chef.

Stephen Piddock brings 20 years' experience from top hotels and restaurants in the area.

The 36-year-old now lives in Folkestone but grew up on Romney Marsh before beginning his training in London.

Having worked in Australia as well as Kent's Chilston Park, The Bell Inn at Sandwich and the Hythe Imperial, Piddock said: "I am passionate about using local produce.

"We will be creating dishes to get the best out of those ingredients and increasing production in the restaurant's one-acre walled garden for use by the kitchen."

Cappuccino soup sets new style at The Snail

THE Snail At Stone Street, near Sevenoaks, has launched a new menu following the arrival of international restaurateur Chef Niko.

The chef has worked in five-star hotel-restaurants in Germany and was head chef of the presidential palace in Europe, presenting fine foods for senior foreign dignitaries including Prime Ministers and the US president.

Chef Niko brings new delights to the menu at The Snail and is supported by a front-of-house team looking to offer customers a taste of exciting new dishes, including cappuccino soup and Thai chicken penne.

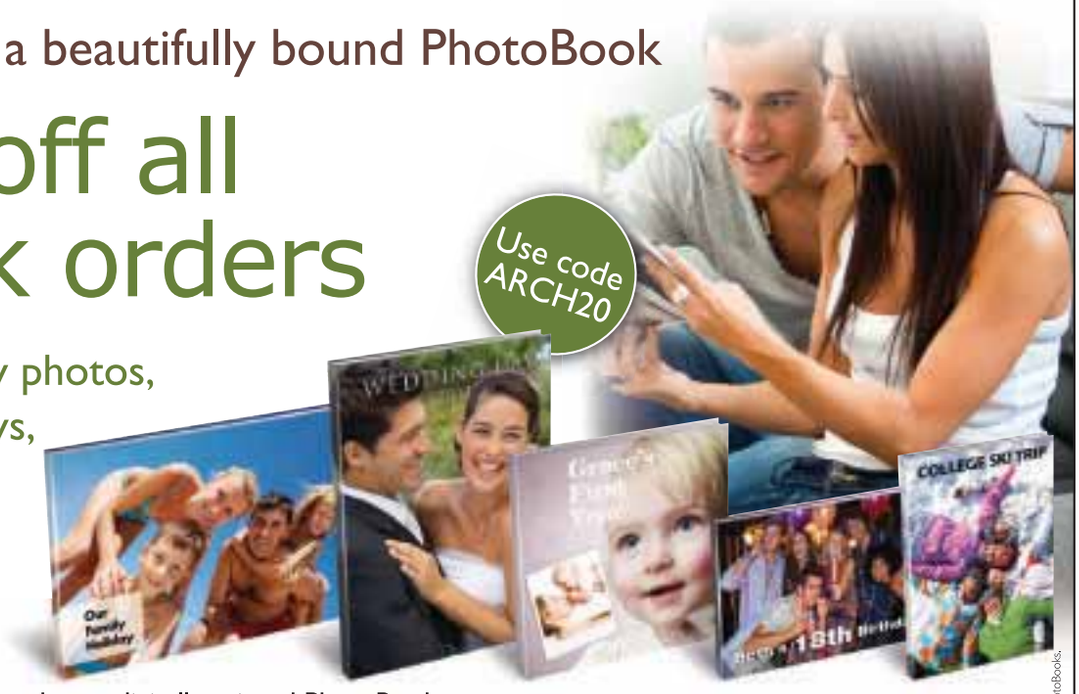
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(T&C's below)

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395901**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

JANET happy go lucky, young 60, likes meals out, music, animals, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391071**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

BIG blonde and beautiful 43tyr old, GSOH, seeks genuine, honest, loyal, caring male, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390215**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, night's in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non-drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

CLARE 5ft 5ins, looking for soul mate, older man, 45-50's with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389133**

FEMALE 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

ANNA 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

WENDY darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, must be N/S, like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

IVY May tall, slim, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**



CANDY 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

BLACK female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565**

BERYL retired nurse, Medway area, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

63YR old male, seeks similar aged female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224**

6FT male, 58, slim, light hearted, likes clubbing, would expect to add a dimension to our relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397821**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

PHIL biker, single dad, slim, seeks similar slim female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397705**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

GENUINE male, 54, GSOH, seeks genuine female, 30-54 for LTR. Kids/animals no problem. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392104**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

LORNA 66, loving, 5ft 4ins, seeks similar gent, 60-70. Hythe. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387162**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

30YR old male, genuine, passionate, respectful, seeking female for romance and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396407**

THANET male, smart, young mid 60's, caring, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396405**

PAUL 61, down to earth, average guy, likes home life, days out, meals out, holidays, walks, social drinker, smoker, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396587**

Gay Seeking

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Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

STEVE 45, bi, CD, green eyes, seeking TV/CD for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397621**

48YR old she male, seeks kind, caring boyfriend in Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397381**

55YR old male, medium build, 5ft 8ins, likes wrestling seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397225**

CANTERBURY male, 50's, fit, bi-curious, seeks male, 25 plus for uncomplicated fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391535**

DAVID 65, retired, 5ft 9ins, grey hair, 14st, likes CD, seeking male, 45-75 dominant for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397813**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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Blues of New York

The Billy Walton Band

Broadstairs Pavilion
Sunday, November 18, at 7pm
Tickets £5
www.broadstairsbluesbash.com

FLYING out in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, The Billy Walton Band from New York are on tour in the UK and playing Broadstairs Pavilion on Sunday.

The organisers of the Broadstairs Blues Bash, which takes place in February, couldn't resist getting the group in for an autumn show.

Walton is an explosive performer and, with the addition of bassist William Paris, Richie Taz on sax and drummer Johnny D'Angelo, his band turn out a singular brand of funky blues.

He has worked with stars such as Bruce Springsteen.

Tickets are on sale at the pavilion or at www.broadstairsbluesbash.com priced at £5.

80s legends

Squeeze and Paul Heaton

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Tuesday, November 27
0844 871 7627
www.gigsandtours.com

FOLLOWING their 2010 Spot The Difference Tour, British legends Squeeze return this winter with a special guest.

Former Housemartin and Beautiful South frontman Paul Heaton will support Squeeze on all dates, with his band performing a selection of his extensive back catalogue.

Almost 40 years since Squeeze burst on to the scene, and befitting one of the UK's most-loved acts, there is no end of Squeeze fans wearing their influences firmly on their sleeve, whether it be Mark Ronson, Kasabian, Lily Allen or The Feeling.

With their fingerprints keenly felt throughout the fabric of popular music, Squeeze are never ones to miss.

Tickets cost from £33-£46.





No ice? Don't wait to skate

Roller disco

Hugh Christie Technology College, Tonbridge
07970 266790
www.rocknrollerdisco.com

THE team behind this year's Rollerfest at Bluewater has launched roller-disco sessions for all ages and abilities.

Every Sunday throughout Christmas, there will be a DJ, professional sound and lighting system, organised games, dance competitions and activities to help create a fantastic atmosphere that everyone will enjoy.

The team provides quad skates and safety equipment and will be on hand to help with the fitting of pads and assist all skaters as necessary.

Prices will range from £6 to £11.50 depending on equipment use and whether skaters take part in the VIP and Christmas-party packages available. Check the website for further details.

A Dickensian Christmas

Wonderworld

Dickens World, Chatham
From Saturday, November 17
01634 890421
www.dickensworld.co.uk

THIS Christmas, Dickens World will present a magical extravaganza of fun and entertainment for the family.

The celebrations begin on Saturday, November 17, at 3.45pm with the launch.

Free tickets to the venue will be available on the 17th only, on a first-come-first-served basis; get them from Dickens World's admissions foyer between 10am and 2pm.

You will see Dickens World in all its Victorian Christmassy splendour, bedecked with fabulous, glittering decorations and complete with elves and Father Christmas.

Meet characters from Dick Whittington, the 2012 panto, and sample the magic that this original production has in store for you.

Do not forget to browse the Dickensian Christmas craft fair.

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Terms and conditions apply. Visit our website for details and ticket prices.
leeds-castle.com
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Volunteers wanted
for fund raising and charity awareness events to be held in the near future at;
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Contact Rachel Carr at
rachel.carr@africarelieftrust.org

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for fund raising and charity awareness events to be held in the near future at;
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Contact Rachel Carr at
rachel.carr@africarelieftrust.org

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Waggon at Hale

New Year's Eve EXTRAVAGANZA

Only £50 per person

Come and join us and celebrate the arrival of 2013 in style

YOUR NIGHT INCLUDES:

- Canapés & bubbly on arrival
- 5 course New Year's Eve Banquet
- Bubbles at Midnight
- Disco - resident DJ playing all the hits from the decades
- Carriages at 2am

Or alternatively purchase tickets at £5 per person which includes a glass of bubbles at midnight

This winter come & dine at the Waggon at Hale...

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£22.95 per person
Booking is required
Groups over 6 will need to pay a £10 deposit per person

CHRISTMAS DAY MENU
£65 per person
Booking is required with a £10 deposit per person.
Full payment is required 14 days before

Book early to avoid disappointment on 01634 400800

www.waggonathale.com

'Warm up this winter'

Old House at Home

- **Live Bands:**

Sunday 18th November Head Games
Friday 23rd November Life of Riley
Sunday 25th November Head Long

- **Open mic night every Wednesday**
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Now taking Christmas bookings see Facebook page for menus

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01795 662463

Red Lion

Circa 1364

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Christmas Menu
£24.95 per head

Should you decide to book for Christmas, please phone to book your date or contact using this website. For parties of 10 or more we require a £10 per head non-returnable deposit, which you can forward to us once you have booked.

We also apply a discretionary 10% service charge to such parties. Please choose from the menu below and forward to us no later than ONE week before your meal.

WIN FREE ENTRY TO PRIZE DRAW
with every Christmas booking

One lucky person will win live music to celebrate their Birthday! Choice of Bands: (subject to availability) including: • Gary Emmanuel • Co-Co • Nikki Alexander • The Boogey Men or a band of your choice up to the value of £250
Draw to take place on 31st December 2012

01227 751207 www.theredlion.org

EATING **OUT**

Across the county



Top sunsets and fresh food make you feel at home

SITUATED on the riverside, The Old House At Home is a beautiful place to sit and enjoy the scenery, along with tasty food and a refreshing drink. With winter on its way, warm yourself in front of the roaring log-fire and watch wonderful sunsets from one of the best spots in Kent.

Home-cooked hearty meals are a speciality of the venue, which prides itself on traditional cooking. Music is also on offer on Sunday (November 18), with top band Head Games playing. The Life Of Riley perform on Friday, November 23, and Head Long on Sunday, November 25.

The pub has its famous jam nights on Wednesdays, featuring top local talent. Real ales are always available and there is even a hidden courtyard for a drink away from it all. The pub is the second in the Queenborough area to be involved with the Campaign for Real Ale.

Fish straight from the catch is a popular menu attraction and boats often make overnight stops nearby as they navigate the estuary to London.

"May you come as a stranger but leave as a friend" is the motto of one of the most welcoming pubs on Sheppey, in one of the best locations in Kent.

The pub is open from noon until midnight or 1am on Friday and Saturday nights.

■ **Old House at Home**
1 High Street, Queensborough ME11 5AA
(phone 01795 662463)

CHEF RECOMMENDS

BANKS BAR: 01622 676799
www.banksbar.co.uk
Starter: Home-made crab cakes served on a bed of mixed leaves with a sweet chilli dip.
Main: Roast chicken with a home-made Yorkshire pudding, a selection of fresh roasted vegetables, roast potatoes, stuffing, chipolatas and gravy.
Dessert: Delicious home-made chocolate brownies served warm with vanilla ice-cream.

BLOOMERS: 01474 322131
www.overcliffehotel.com
Starter: Warm goat's cheese with roasted red onion, rocket and Parmesan salad.
Main: Roasted Scottish salmon fillet with spiced butter and fresh coriander. All this is served with a selection of the market's freshest vegetables or mixed salad and French dressing.
Dessert: Strawberries and cream with a chilled glass of Champagne.

THE RED LION: 01227 751207
www.theredlion.org
Starter: Pan-fried pigeon breast in butter and black pepper.
Main: Slow-roasted lamb shank on the bone – tender lamb on the bone baked in the oven on a bed of mashed potatoes, served with minted peas.
Desert: Pecan pie.

OLD HOUSE AT HOME: 01795 662463
Starter: Home-made winter vegetable soup.
Main: Steak-and-kidney pie.
Dessert: Apple crumble and custard.



TASTE OF PARADISE: The Banks team has come up with something special for its treasured customers and offers a choice of quality roast will all the trimmings... how can you resist?

Boogie the night away and savour the menu at Banks

BANKS is the longest-standing independent restaurant in Maidstone.

The venue offers the best of both worlds – a contemporary bar with the feel and atmosphere of a country pub all in the middle of the town centre. Food is served Monday to Saturday, from 10.30am to 4pm, with a selection of freshly-prepared traditional meals and snacks, as well as an ever-changing list of specials that the chefs love to create.

There also regular fresh fish dishes on the menu fromThursday to Saturday. At the weekend, Banks is transformed into a lively, quirky and exciting bar, with two main areas and completed by a cocktail bar.

The group is renowned in Maidstone for putting on amazing events in the huge beer garden, including a selection of house DJs from Carl Cox to Jamie Jones. The Banks team is a close-knit, small group that prides itself on maintaining the outstanding reputation it worked hard for over the years.

More recently, Banks hosted KISS FM events, which have been a sell-out every time. On top of these events, which target a younger market, Banks is home of the Warehouse Reunion, Maidstone's hit 80s club, giving older customers the chance to reminisce on the old times and dance the night away.

The Big Sunday Lunch is a one-off Sunday roast, served in the Banks restaurant on Sunday, November 25. It's a perfect chance for customers to catch up with old friends, enjoy some delicious home-cooked food and relax.

The team wanted to give regular customers a civilised afternoon of hearty food and relaxation with a menu of freshly-cooked traditional English roast of your choice with all the trimmings followed by a selection of mouthwatering desserts.

Customers will have the chance to also plan their outfits for the big event coming up the following week as the Warehouse Reunion night celebrates its first birthday on Saturday, December 1.

The Banks bar accommodates the biggest beer garden in Maidstone, stretching out the back of the venue. It is used to its full potential in the summer and utilised as a space for a heated marquee in the winter and Christmas period, where the team will host festive corporate functions.

■ **Banks Bar**
76 Bank Street, Maidstone ME14 1SJ
(phone 01622 676799
website www.banksbar.co.uk
email banksbarmaidstone@yahoo.co.uk)

A delicious Christmas at the Waggon

IT'S going to be a real cracker of a Christmas this year with the delicious menu at the Waggon At Hale.

The Waggon is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines and beers and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

There is always plenty going on at the Waggon, with themed nights, quizzes, charity events and live music. Families are always welcome and in the pub's big family-friendly garden there is even a mini farm featuring chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig.

Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than what we already are – a warm and friendly country pub serving real food and drink, selected, prepared and served to you by our friendly team."

From Thursday, November 29, to Sunday,



December 23, the Waggon will offer its pre-Christmas menu priced at £22.95 per person.

That price includes a starter, a main course and a dessert from an excellent range of puddings, including traditional Christmas pudding, chocolate brownies, tasty French apple tart or, for the ultra-sweet-lovers out there, the raspberry-and-white chocolate cheesecake brûlée. But the choice is up to you!

An example of the menu could include a starter from the tomato-and-basil soup, the deep-fried Brie, the duck-and-orange pâté or even the prawn-and-crayfish salad.

For the main course you could go with the traditional roast turkey or roast topside of Scottish beef with all the vegetables and trimmings For something a little different, try the mushroom-and-chestnut-stuffed plaice or the vegetarian stuffed red peppers.

■ **Waggon at Hale**
179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP
(phone 01634 400800
website www.waggonathale.co.uk)

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Electro-folk
Funke shows off his baby

Duke of Cumberland, Whitstable
Sunday, November 25
01227 280617

KENT'S very own one-man mechanical blues band, Funke And The Two Tone Baby, announces his first UK tour this winter, starting with some of Kent's musical hot-spots.

After bagging 2012 slots at some of the country's leading folk and blues festivals, including Smugglers Festival, Leigh Folk Festival and Broadstairs Folk Week, Funke wants to take his show farther afield but not before stopping off in Whitstable's Duke of Cumberland pub and Canterbury's Cherry Tree, renowned for showing off promising local talent.

His music has been described as a mix of folk and electronic music.

There is no fee to enter the venue.

An artist in the making
Clare Smith

Space Gallery, Folkestone
Open until Sun, November 25
07989 965 883
www.spaceseven.co.uk

ARTIST Clare Smith brings her show In The Making to the Space Gallery in Folkestone.

Smith started out as a linguist and graduated from Cambridge University with a first-class degree in Oriental studies in 1982.

After living and working in Luxembourg for 15 years, she returned to the UK to study art and realised her ambition of making a life in the arts.

She received her BA (Hons) in fine art in 2004 from the University For The Creative Arts in Canterbury and has an MA in fine art practice.

Her work looks at memory, authenticity and the nature of experience, as well as the "emotional connections that are created in the act of making".



Mark Thomas
Activist and a tale of family

Trinity Arts Centre, Tunbridge Wells
Thursday, November 22
01892 678 678

AFTER becoming Guinness world-record-holder for political protests, comic and activist Mark Thomas turns to matters closer to home with a show about his father.

First commissioned by London's Royal Opera House, Bravo Figaro is the tale of Thomas's father, a builder with a passion for opera; his degenerative illness; and Thomas's attempt to stage an opera in a bungalow in Bournemouth.

It is about love, death, fathers and sons and the search for peace in an imperfect world, with a few gags thrown in for luck.

Thomas's biography includes six series on Channel 4, numerous awards, TV documentaries and a range of battles with corporations.

Tickets cost £17.50.



The soul of Christmas
Santa and his craft

Quex Park Museum, Birchington
Sunday, November 25
01843 842168
www.quexpark.co.uk

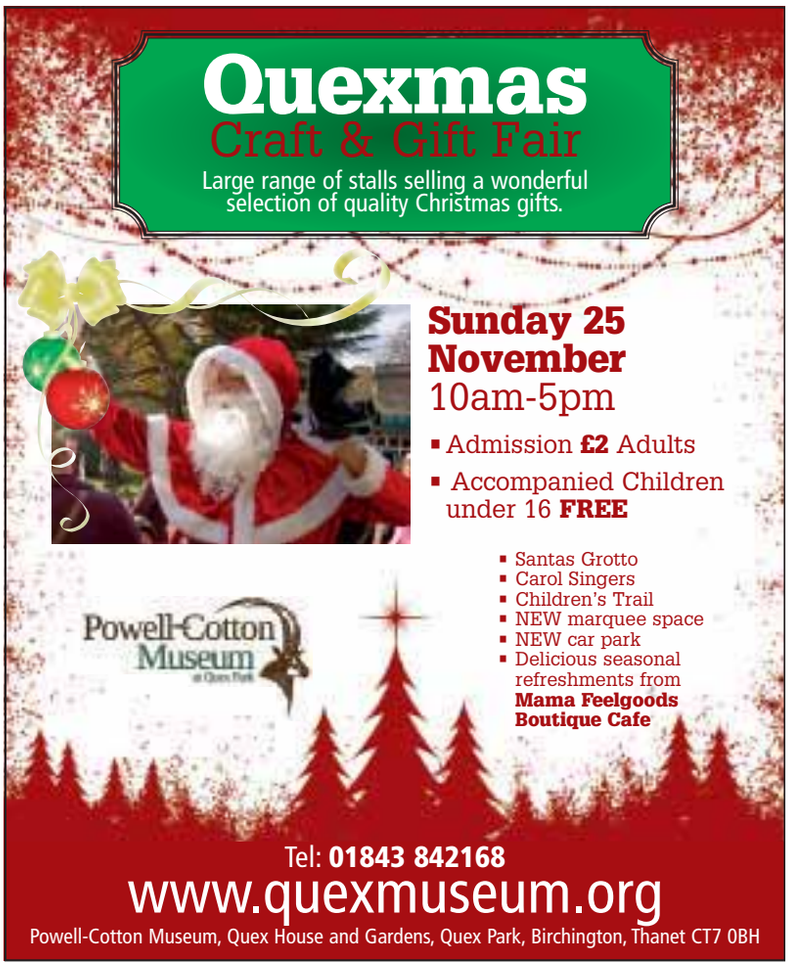
YOU can get into the spirit of the season with a Christmas craft fair at The Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park next week.

The organisers say the popular annual event promises to be even better this year, with more than 70 stalls selling gifts and stocking-fillers.

Santa will be warming his toes by the fireside and invites visitors to join him in the dining room of Quex House. Music will be provided by the choir from Birchington Primary School, The Wednesday Warblers and Blend.

Refreshments will be available at the Mama Feelgoods boutique café.

Entry is priced at £2 for adults.





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Joan's star still shines bright

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IN 1973, Joan Armatrading was voted Outstanding New Artist in a critics' poll in trade magazine Music Week.

The singer-songwriter has come along way since her birth in the West Indies and upbringing in Birmingham, bagging three Grammy nominations, two Brit nominations and a coveted Ivor Novello Award.

And now, with the release her 20th studio album, Starlight, Armatrading returns to Kent with a new tour, and there is no sign of her slowing down.

"I'm not always sure where I've been – there have been so many times before. I still tour after every album," she said.

"I love to write – it is my passion, it is my favourite thing – and once I have written a song I want people to hear it in a live situation.

"When you're travelling, it can be incredibly tiring, but once you get out on to the stage, no matter how tired you've felt, and if the audience are into it, the tiredness vanishes and you're as fresh as a daisy.

"I always do a combination of old and new songs – it would be unfair to everybody if I just played my new album."

The 61-year-old is keen to keep her tours and live appearances simple for her fans and herself.

"They will hear new things from Starlight, but they will hear lots of songs they've known for a long time, and it's the audience's reaction to that which keeps touring fresh.

"I don't take anything with me – a hairdryer, a toothbrush and obviously a change of clothes. Every day is in a different city, so you don't want to be having a big suitcase to unpack every day.

"My very first tour, I had a bag that was the size of a doctor's bag for the three months in America – and that is all I took."

In musical terms, Armatrading has achieved what most performers dream of. She has played with some of the finest musicians around, received countless gold and platinum discs, figured in VH1's Top 100 of The Most Influential Women In Rock and been honoured by The Queen in receiving an MBE.

Her prolific song-writing continues, but the musican has her very own way of creating tracks, including her new record, Starlight.

"It's part of a trilogy of blues, rock and jazz albums I started in 2007. This one is the final of the three, so it has a huge jazz influence on the CD. I don't actually listen to a lot of stuff. I'm aware of what music is going on, but I don't sit down and listen to a load of jazz before writing – I just do it.

"Because I'm touring, I won't be writing. I can't write on tour – it doesn't work for me. But I will have lots of ideas that I will make a note of. When I finish a tour, I'm in the mood to write and I have that time on my own. I haven't got to travel or do interviews or sound checks – I can just get on with it."

Her music from the past 40 years remains as popular with fans today as when it was first released, especially her smash hit Love And Affection.

"That's the song that got me known all over the world.

"It doesn't matter whether I'm in Japan or Australia, that single is requested. I have sung it at every single gig on every single tour I have ever done. There are also always requests for The Weakness In Me. It's a toss-up between those two as to which gets the biggest applause."

Amazingly, Armatrading continues to surprise everyone and in 2008, one month from her 58th birthday, she ran the 26-mile New York marathon and helped raise £76,000 for her chosen charity.

However, this isn't something she intends to repeat regularly.

"The marathon was always something I wanted to do, but I didn't particularly want to do loads of them. I like sports anyway – I was completely caught up with the Olympics.

"After all the medals came, everyone got into it and more people were proud to be British and that was the whole point. It was fantastic."

■ **Joan Armatrading is at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday, November 20, at 7.30pm. Phone 01892 530613 for tickets. Alternatively, you can visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**



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New website clicks with both agents and sellers

AN estate-agency comparison website launched by Folkestone business netanagent.com has already outperformed expectations in its month.

netanagent.com allows anyone with a property to sell or let to post their details free of charge and wait for tailored quotes to be sent back from interested estate agencies.

The property-owner can then make an informed choice and pick the best deal.

Since the launch, the website has been inundated with requests, both from those with properties to sell or let, and from estate agencies wishing to be listed on the site.

The website is attracting business from across England and is currently listing more than £17 million of property.

In the last five weeks, 27,500 visitors have been to the site – outperforming all predicted expectations.

Alex Thorpe, managing director of netanagent.com, said: "We're delighted with the feedback from both estate agents and those that have instructed an agent through the site so far.

"Our aim was to turn the property-selling or letting process on its head as for the first time estate agents have to demonstrate up front what exactly they will be charging and, more importantly, the value they'll add to the sales process.

"We've already seen a raft of competitive offers on the table for the homeowner to pick from and we're hoping this will lead to a shake-up of the market.

"What we're finding is that people are saving significant amounts of money by using this website. For example, one user was coming to the end of his contract with an existing estate agent. By using our site, he managed to save £1,200 on the sale of a property worth £75,000 – which is the equivalent of the moving fees.

"We're very pleased with the progress to date – we're striking a balance between providing property-owners with the best deal and providing agents with good-quality leads and a stronger online presence. We're planning to continue our fast expansion for the remainder of this year and into next."

Opportunities from Green Deal are highlighted during seminar

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A SEMINAR hosted by the Country Land And Business Association has highlighted to both homeowners and those involved in the letting market the challenges ahead following Government housing-policy developments and the launch of the Green Deal in October.

A Government report published earlier this year highlighted the need to increase the provision of let housing being built or financed by the private sector – yet many who attempt to venture down that route find themselves frustrated by rules and regulations and by unhelpful tax regimes and difficulties obtaining finance.

The Country Land And Business Association (CLA) says it is offering members and non-members alike the chance to explore the rationale and process behind the Green Deal as well as the threats and opportunities that attendees could experience in delivering high-quality housing in the 21st century.

At the seminar, at the Best Western Donnington Manor Hotel in Sevenoaks, CLA national housing adviser Danielle Troop, who has previously worked on housing-led regeneration and affordable housing delivery, outlined the political background to the rural-housing agenda and the CLA's policy objectives with a breakdown of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), giving attendees pointers for the future.

CLA regional surveyor Tim Broomhead said: "Whether you are a landlord or manager of rural housing, this seminar will help you to take advantage of the recent changes. We welcome the opportunity to host these interactive seminars to provide the public with the necessary information to succeed with their existing and future stock."

The recently-issued CLA Housing Policy for 2013 that focuses on new housing across all tenures was also discussed.



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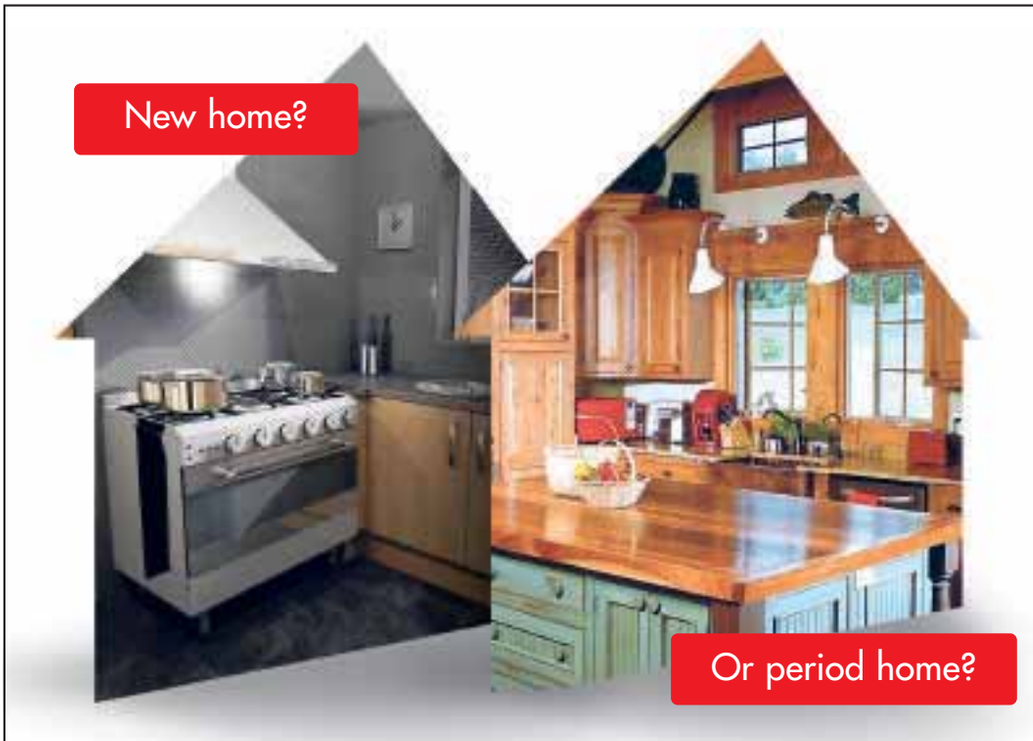
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First **GEAR**
MOTORING NEWS

- Mazda6 appealing to company fleet sector
- Lexus new dream machine a 'super' hybrid
- Vauxhall Insignia VXR is now more affordable



The name's Toyota... the new Toyota GT86

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



JAGUAR XF SPORTBRAKE

Price: from £31,940
Driving appeal: Not driven yet
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: BMW 5 Series Touring

An estate of grace, space and pace, to coin a Jaguar phrase

JAGUAR hasn't made a habit of estate cars.

Apart from a few one-offs and concepts, the marque's first production model was the X-Type Estate of 2004, which was easily better looking than the tubby saloon.

But Jaguar buffs will tell you that estate still doesn't count, as the whole X-Type project was based on a Ford Mondeo.

The new Jaguar XF Sportbrake, on the other hand, looks like a Jag thoroughbred.

Based on Jaguar's best-seller, the glamorous XF saloon, it is both a practical load-lugger and rakish lifestyle estate for those who like the country-set image. This apparent contradiction has been achieved by a sweeping rear roofline made to look even more dramatic by its divergence from the arc of the rearmost side window, and by a slanting tailgate.

Inside, though, are fully-folding rear seats and a nicely squared-off load space – it should pass the antique-dealer's chest-of-drawers test.

Self-levelling rear suspension as standard is also testament to Jaguar's desire that this 'estate of grace, space and pace' – to borrow a famous Jaguar slogan of the 1950s and 1960s – should be taken seriously as a practical as well as stylish choice.

Two early Sportbrake examples gave the new model extra kudos, too, as support cars to victorious UK cycling hero Bradley Wiggins and Team Sky in the Tour de France earlier this year.

After this teasing build-up, though, the car is now available to buy, priced from a not-unreasonable £31,940.

Targeted primarily at discerning company-car user-choosers, where it will attack the BMW 5 series Touring, Audi A6 Avant and new Mercedes-Benz CLS Sporting Brake particularly, the Sportbrake launches with diesel power only.

And the headline here is replacement of the previous 190PS (187bhp) four-cylinder 2.2-litre unit by two derivatives offering 163PS (161) or 200PS (197) with CO_2 emissions from just 135g/km and combined economy from 55.4mpg. The Sportbrake will also be available with a 3.0-litre turbocharged V6 diesel (from £35,855) with either 240PS (237) or 275PS (271) outputs.

An eight-speed auto with emissions and fuel-saving Stop/Start and manual paddleshifts is now standard on all XFs, the arrival of the new estate version coinciding with an upgrade of powertrains and other details for the whole XF range – the car that has really put Jaguar back on the map with customers.

Sportbrake performance ranges from 0-60mph in 9.8 seconds for the 163PS version to 5.9 seconds for the 275PS V6 – the V6 versions are likely to be most sought after by private buyers, while the fleet sector will like the more company-car-tax-efficient 2.2 models.

The XF range now also gets a British Meridian sound system, replacing fellow UK premium audio brand Bowers and Wilkins.





DESIGNED TO PLEASE: Jaguar's new XF Sportbrake first came to the fore as a support car to victorious UK cycling hero Bradley Wiggins and Team Sky in the Tour de France earlier this year

DON'T LIKE

... the wait for such a stylish yet practical alternative to the XF saloon, but Jaguar lacks the development resources of German rivals.

NOT SURE

... it can rival the volumes of Audi, BMW and Merc estates, but the Germans will worry about another star turn from the resurgent Brit brand.

REALLY LIKE

... how the Sportbrake is almost a stand-alone model, taking the best of the XF saloon but creating an elegant car to view in isolation.



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Model shown is GT86 2.0 Boxer D-4S Manual £24,995. Price excludes metallic paint at £495. Prices correct at time of going to press. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.
GT86 2.0 Boxer D-4S Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 27.2 (10.4), Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4), Combined 36.2 (7.8). CO2 Emissions 181g/km.

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RENAULT







Go for a GT86... Toyota out to prove that you only live once

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TOYOTA was worrying me...

Having made its name with well-equipped, reliable smaller cars, it always used to glam up its image with fast, affordable halo models like the Celica, Supra and 1980s mid-engine MR2.

But once the Japanese car giant caught the hybrid bug, every spare yen of research and development cash seemed to pour into laudable but dull hybrids until, finally, management recognised that excitement was missing.

Cue this summer's GT86, a cheap yet stunning sports car that deliberately echoes an even older image-maker, the 1960s 2000GT – 'Toyota's E-Type' immortalised by a one-off convertible version made for the James Bond film You Only Live Twice.

The GT86 has the same long nose, low-slung window line and miniscule rear quarterpane as the 2000GT, and Toyota shrewdly kept the car simple and shared development with Subaru, which badly needed a halo car, too, and has ties with Toyota.

Toyota supplied design leadership and new direct petrol-injection technology, which contributed to the car's high non-turbocharged 197bhp output from two litres.

Subaru, which markets the car as the BRZ, supplied the platform and one of its trademark boxer (horizontally-opposed) engines, allowing an ultra-low profile and superb rear-wheel-drive balance, encouraging keen drivers to gently drift the back end out when cornering with traction control off.

Badges on the GT86 wings, showing two horizontal pistons and four drifting wheels, sum up this ability and the car's engine. It's the sort of affordable sporting fun previously owned by the Mazda MX-5 – which will soon have a GT86 crop-top to contend with as well.

There's just one GT86 model (£24,995) for now, though, unless you want the auto (why?) for an additional £1,500, and it looks as retro inside as out, with a modest yet sturdy dashboard and trimming that is part of its charm.

There are nice alloy-finish pedals, though, even if you wonder why Toyota didn't throw in red seatbelts. The only concession to the modern age is a central media/sat-nav screen.

There's a fashionable and retro stop/start engine button, of course, although there is a space for a conventional steering-column key, suggesting that an even cheaper version could arrive that might really clean up in this sector.

Cabin stowage is typically minimalist for a sports car, but there's an uncharacteristically good boot even if the aperture is narrow.

The front seats are well shaped, with two heavily-bucketed ones in the back; you could carry four adults at a pinch, but the GT86 is more a 2+2 while still being more practical than most other – more expensive – sports cars I could mention.

But this is all froth compared with the driving experience, which is top-notch – especially at this price, with Toyota's promise of reliability and low maintenance backed by a five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

There have been whinges that the engine is neither turbocharged nor sounds beefy enough, and is slow out of the blocks, but that's probably as much for PR reasons – a gas-guzzling monster would jar with Toyota's expensively-won image as an eco champion.

Anyway, I like the engine and its sweet revving once into its stride above 4,000 revs. It will hit 62mph in 7.6 seconds, but manoeuvrability is more key to the car's appeal, helped by wheels and tyres resembling a Toyota Prius hybrid – beefing them up would surely lower the GT86's fun factor. The six-speed gearbox can be flicked from cog to cog quickly while allowing economical motorway cruising, for it's a useable sports car rather than a holidays-and-high-days beast.

So, if you always promised yourself a sports car one day...

TOYOTA GT86: PRICE £24,995



FAST AND FURIOUS: Toyota GT86 harks back to the Japanese car-maker's iconic 1960s 2000 GT that featured in the James Bond movie You Only Live Twice, above. This all-new model is a cheap yet stunning sports car sure to attract attention.

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£215/year
Best rival:	Mazda MX-5CC

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Fleet appeal of new Mazda6

NEW eco-friendly Skyactiv technology embedded in the new Mazda6, due in January, is expected to create one of the slowest-depreciating models in the fleet sector, say CAP monitor valution experts.

Residual values for one of the likely stars of the range, the £23,140 Mazda6 2.2 150ps SE-L Nav, are expected to be 32 per cent of original price.



Hybrid aiming even higher

LEXUS has created a super executive hybrid with the launch of the new high-spec, high-value CT200h Advance (£24,495).

Standard kit includes sat-nav, reversing camera, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, rain-sensing wipers, folding door mirrors, cruise-control and the brand's new alternative to leather upholstery called Tahara, all for a premium of just £500 over the existing CT200h SE model.



Price is finally right for VXR

COULD this be take-off for the muscular Vauxhall Insignia VXR – a great sporting car hamstrung by buyers' fears of future depreciation?

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Eve of new Adam approaches

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VAUXHALL will soon launch its most interesting car for a while, and that's not to say recent output has been dull.

But the new Adam, priced from £11,255 and due early in 2013, shows the UK arm of General Motors not only attacking the city-car segment for the first time but also tilting at the fashion niche owned by the BMW Mini, Fiat 500 and Citroën DS3.

And while it lacks the retro image of the first two, it still begs to be noticed.

Why Adam? Well, cars we know as Vauxhalls appear elsewhere in Europe branded as Opel of Germany, founded by Adam Opel. But if Brits can't really identify with the new car's name, we can take comfort from a few things.

Firstly, there was never a 'Mr Vauxhall', so, despite an early model called the Prince Henry – and 'Henry' would never do for this car's target customers – that avenue is closed.

Secondly, the British designer credited with injecting style into the Vauxhall/Opel line-up these days, notably with the latest Astra, the Insignia and now the Adam, is a Brit called Mark Adams – the guy deserves the namecheck via this new car.

The Adam has a big job, though, lifting Vauxhall's fashionability and premium appeal as the marque tries to distance itself from competent and affordable Korean-built cars from its own Chevrolet GM stablemate and Hyundai/Kia while also moving upmarket only to find marques like BMW and Audi pushing downmarket with cars like the latest 1 Series and A1 respectively.

On its side, the Adam has distinctive looks and a 'floating roof' visual device that allows a distinct two-tone paint treatment – particularly effective on the Mini and DS3.

For customisation and image are everything in this sector and the Adam has specials up its sleeve, such as a wild array of alloy wheels, many of which can be further colour-personalised.

There is also an interior headliner that astronomer Patrick Moore would love. It twinkles like the sky at night – for the moment, it's the sort of thing you can only have on a Roller or from a bespoke custom shop.

The Adam's permutations are endless, though, and to help guide the customers' desires initially there are three cleverly-named trim levels from which buyers can then spin, at a price, their own imaginative take.

These are: Jam, for the youngest buyers; Glam, for more discerning females; and then Slam, for a a sportier look and probably more for the boys.

I reckon they may also need to slot in a snarling VXR version to give the range a halo car like the Mini Cooper S.

For now, though, the Adam won't be burning up the streets with a crowd-pleasing economy-orientated spread of three petrol powertrains: a 69bhp 1.2-litre, or 86 or 99bhp 1.4-litre.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2: Urban 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 61.4 (4.6), CO_2 Emissions 108 g/km. Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO_2 Emissions 114 g/km.

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ix35

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

ix35 Style 1.6 GDi

36 Monthly Payments of	£249.00
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Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£1,250.00
Customer Deposit	£4,288.25
Amount of Credit	£12,356.75
Interest Charges	£1,834.75
Optional Final Payment	£5,227.50
Total Amount Payable	£19,729.75
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.55% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
Representative APR	6.9%*

New Generation Santa Fe

Personal Contract Purchase Example

New Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD

36 Monthly Payments of	£329.00
On The Road Price	£25,990.00
Customer Deposit	£7,815.75
Amount of Credit	£18,174.25
Interest Charges	£2,403.50
Optional Final Payment	£8,733.75
Total Amount Payable	£28,393.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
APR	5.9%*

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Models shown: ix35 Style 1.6 GDi at £17,895 OTR in Sleek Silver metallic paint at £495 included. New Generation Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD manual at £25,990 OTR in Titanium Silver metallic paint at £495 included. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable. VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *6.9% APR available on Hyundai ix35 models and 5.9% APR available on all New Generation Santa Fe models for retail customers only. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st October and 31st December 2012, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat: Urban 38.2 (7.4) Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 Emissions 155 g/km.



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Fuel consumption for the All-New Volvo V40 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 25.0 (11.3) – 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 35.8 (7.9) – 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 Emissions 185 – 94 g/km.

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Main Dealer Servicing

Protecting car reliability and value needs care

IT'S hard to imagine in tough economic times, but cars represent better value now than in the past.

They are also more reliable and come with more equipment, but what hasn't changed is the need to keep up the service schedule and ensure repairs are carried out swiftly and competently.

The best guarantee used to be a full main dealer service history, a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice and 2002 EU legislation made it illegal for manufacturers to insist on cars being maintained by their franchise network to keep the guarantee intact.

It also meant that manufacturers had to make vehicle diagnostics information – crucial with increasingly-sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.

Nevertheless, many car-buyers still prefer main dealer franchising and also think it is the best way to protect the part-exchange or second-hand value of the car, since used-car-buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main dealer service history on sophisticated models like the Peugeot 508.

Sceptics argue, though, that this perceived premium is wiped out by paying higher main dealer service costs.

Maybe, but manufacturers and their main-dealer networks have raised their game since the 2002 legislation. Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed during the economic downturn, dealers have become more competitive on servicing, created cost-effective service plans, enhanced customer service and specialised in ancillaries like tyres and exhausts – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres.

They have also banked on the perception that only a main dealer's service technicians can know its cars as well they do.

And happy service customers keep coming back, seeing the latest new car models on the showroom floor – one day soon, they may be buying again.





KEEPING ON TRACK: Don't cut corners on servicing and care for sophisticated modern cars like the Citroen DS5 (left) Hybrid 5 and the Porsche Cayenne

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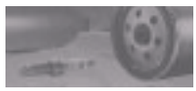
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SEALING THE DEAL: Maintaining your racy Alfa Romeo Giulietta or sophisticated Lexus RX450h hybrid, far left, through your local franchise should mean it's worth more when you sell

Dealer service history – is it worth it?

ONCE you know the jargon of used-car classified ads, the importance of DSH, MDSH and FMDSH becomes clear.

For those yet to be initiated, they are all variations on the theme 'dealer service history', with FMDSH being the gold standard – full main dealer service history.

Does it matter? Well, a lot of new-car-buyers think it does because it protects future part-exchange or second-hand values of their motor, since used-car-buyers are usually happy to pay a premium for a complete and unblemished main dealer service history.

Critics might argue: "Ah, but you wiped out that perceived premium by paying more for your main dealer servicing while you owned the car."

It's a point, but having seen sales profits squeezed ever more tightly, many dealers have chosen to market servicing more aggressively.

They've become more cost-effective, enhanced customer service, introduced competitive pricing on items like tyres – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres – and encouraged the perception that only a main dealer's service technicians can know its cars as well they do.

And dealers know that happy service customers come back, bringing immediate revenue and also seeing the latest models on the showroom floor – they may, of course, buy again.

Third-party sources also support the wisdom of keeping your new car in the franchise family.

Media motoring guru Honest John really was honest with a BMW-owner who considered using an independent garage to maintain his car.

"After independent servicing, you will get a lower part-ex price from a BMW-dealer and it will go to auction.

"If the car has a full dealer service history and is in retail condition, you will get a higher price. The difference will normally be worth more than you save on maintenance," he said.

Motor Trade Insider website polled several professional motor-traders who collectively buy 5,000 cars per year for main dealers.

The simple question was: "If you were asked to bid on a three-year-old variant of one of your models with average mileage and spec, would you value it any less if it had three KwikFit/Halfords/Tesco *etc* stamps against three stamps from the franchise representing the car?"

The answer? "The results in some cases were staggering: the Ford- and VW-buyers said they would value a car like this £800-£1,000 less.

"The Jaguar-buyer said it would need to be £1,500 to £2,000 less and, amazingly, the BMW and Mercedes boys said they probably just wouldn't want to buy it!"



SUPPORT: Manufacturers like Mazda now use digital service histories that are harder to falsify

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Main dealers hit back at quick fit

SPECIALIST 'quick/fast-fit' centres have boomed as drivers try to save money on exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock-absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MOT.

But main dealers have not been sitting idle, reckoning that if car-owners are still using their service bays, then they won't mind considering realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop-shop purchase.

Using the main dealer also guarantees that only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability and the knowledge that this will be logged on the dealer/manufacturer database.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has also encouraged owners to have bodyshop repairs done either by the franchise's own panel-beaters and paintshop or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from their quick-fit rivals by offering menu pricing; this means that, like dining out, a customer can decide what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding motoring indigestion when the bill is presented.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via finance or servicing schemes covering several years.

Others may also offer a loyalty scheme with a tariff of cheaper prices to keep owners of older and lower-value models on their books rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector simply because they feel their car is no longer worth top servicing prices.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit companies is longer working hours at main-dealer service centres; dealers know many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally, too, so that customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.



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INCREASINGLY complex vehicles and a shortage of skills in the jobs market has made the main-dealer technician a hugely important part of the site's servicing operation.

Sarah Sillars, executive chair of the trade's Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), said: "The rate of technological change in the automotive industry is currently being driven by competition, consumer demands and regulation.

"This is creating a constant requirement for businesses to anticipate change and invest in training to help staff keep pace with developments."

The body has also developed a Consumer Code of Practice system to promote and maintain professional standards, while its sister organisation, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), published a paper, Strengthening Skills For A Growing Economy, calling on the Government to help feed demand for the necessary skill sets and ease unemployment at the same time.

Most motor-manufacturers are proactive in finding and promoting technicians within dealership networks. Many are then sent to special sites and plants run by the companies in the UK and abroad to test their skills and attain the highest qualifications.

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SEAT



MONEY MATTERS: Hyundai has raised the stakes on warranties – models like the new generation i30, left, come with a five-year/100,000-mile guarantee, but make sure you keep the service schedule up to date to maintain the warranty on the family workhorse like this Nissan Qasqhai or the new Peugeot 208



Warranty wars are worth fighting for

NEW cars are covered by a warranty. For years, the standard was three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' between carmakers has seen both the years and mileages increase.

It's a good reason for car-buyers to shop around, but some of the new deals also reinforce the old adage to check the small print.

This will confirm exactly what the manufacturer will and will not pay for if the car breaks down within the agreed time period or mileage.

And this makes it imperative that the car-owner also sticks to the rules by keeping the vehicle serviced according to the warranty – and also takes note of and acts upon any recall notices for unforeseen faults and problems.

Some marques are more lenient about late servicing than others, but a common pitfall is to have the car serviced only by mileage, when most manufacturers now insist that the car is serviced annually if the required miles are not being covered. You don't have to use a franchised dealer for servicing – this stipulation was thrown out by EU legislation in 2002 – but do check for caveats in any case.

Be aware also that some marques offer the chance to extend the warranty for a reasonable cost or will 'wind back' the warranty clock to start again if you buy an approved used example from one of their dealers – not a bad option





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CARS have leapt ahead in reliability, comfort and driving pleasure in just a few years, but their sophistication means that upholding reliability, economy and safety is now best left to the professionals.

But this costs, so owners often ignore problems for too long or stretch the servicing schedule beyond the recommended limit, perhaps endangering the occupants and certainly undermining the warranty and provenance of the vehicle when they come to sell.

So, follow these tips:

- Maintain the service record to the letter at the correct mileages or annually and make sure the servicing book is stamped up, although many marques have centralised digital records so that a car's servicing record is always available if required.
- Read the warranty document thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls to endanger your guarantee.
- Act on recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- Don't rely on the MOT as insurance for the car's safety and reliability, even if has just passed with flying colours – problems can arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.
- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.
- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, and that includes the correct pressures as listed in the handbook or the sticker often placed on the driver's side door-frame. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, replace at 2mm, especially in winter when icy and wet conditions compromise grip.
- Keep oil, windscreen-washer, coolant, power-steering, clutch and brake-fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights to come on.
- Replace wiper-blades. There's no point in keeping the washer topped up if blades are worn or split. But if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main-dealer servicing, you don't have to use the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.





ATTENTION: New cars like the stylish but practical Citroën C3 Picasso, pictured above, and new Seat Ibiza Cupra hot-hatch are more reliable and safer than ever before, but they still need looking after

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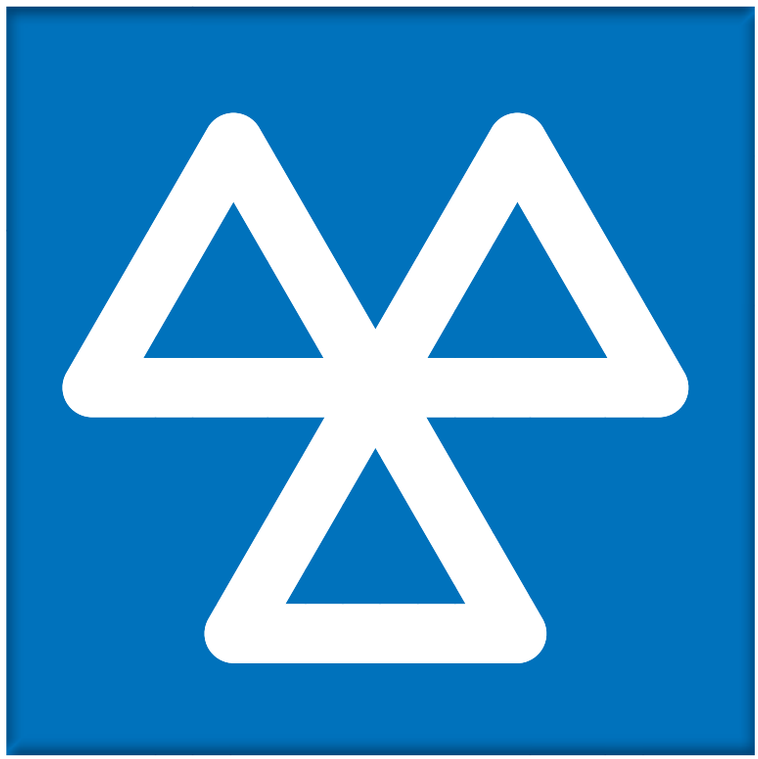
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